

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

March 14, 2021

PRELUDE

“Slane”

Q. Thomas

WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING

CALL TO WORSHIP

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

With glad hearts and willing hands let us worship God.

HYMN

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”
(verses 1 & 3)

No. 285

1. God, You spin the whirling planets,
Fill the seas and spread the plain
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
Call forth sunshine, wind and rain.
We, created in Your image,
Would a true reflection be
Of Your justice, grace and mercy
And the truth that makes us free.

3. God, Your word is still creating,
Calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
Where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion.
Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in Your image,
We'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

CALL TO CONFESSION

This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, for people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us uncover our sin before the liberating light of Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints. We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we profit from systems of injustice. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding more than we can use. We talk about the problems of our world, but do little to act with compassion. Merciful God, expose our sin before the light of your grace. Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways that we me know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

People of God, let us offer our gifts with thanksgiving, and offer our lives in service, to bear witness to the truth of Jesus our Lord.

The Offering plate is in the Narthex. You may also choose to mail your offering to the church office, or give online through our website, cazpres.org.

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, we thank you for your grace and love for all people. Accept this offering with the dedication of our lives and help us be for the world a sign of your steadfast love.

As we listen to the reading of scripture, open your Word by the power of the Holy Spirit, and illumine our darkened world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light of Jesus. Amen.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[a]

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."^[b]

OLD TESTAMENT: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea,^[a] to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous^[b] serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And

the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous^[c] serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

SERMON "Lifted Up"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN "Great is thy Faithfulness" No. 276
(verses 1 & 3)

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Refrain:
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Prelude and Fugue in D Minor" J. S. Bach

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