



4th Sunday in Lent
March 27, 2022
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Topeka, KS

Pre-Service Music

“Refiner’s Fire”
Brian Doerkson
Jaron Marcus, Piano

GATHERING

We gather as the Body of Christ to encounter God in worship.

Prelude

“Great is thy Faithfulness”
William Runyan
Jaron Marcus, Piano

CENTERING WORDS

In what ways am I like the Prodigal Son? In what ways am I like the elder son?

Welcome and Announcements

Laura Sidlinger

Introit

“O, Sacred Head Now Wounded”
Hans Leo Hassler
Heritage Choir/Jaron Marcus, Piano

Responsive Call to Worship

Congregation

Like a loving Father, God offers us freedom to choose our own path.

In God’s freedom, we are a new creation.

Like a merciful Mother, God offers us compassion when we lose our way.

In God’s mercy, we are a new creation.

Like a forgiving Parent, God welcomes us home with open arms.

In God’s embrace, we are a new creation.

Prayer of the Day

*Hymn No. 39

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”
Handbell Choir/Jaron Marcus, Piano

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Congregation

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth’s resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

*Sung Response Hymn No. 695 (refrain only)

“Change My Heart, O God”

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Jaron Marcus, Piano

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan

THE WORD

The Word of God in scripture and interpreted in proclamation is the center of worship.

Sermon on the Steps

Carrie Lancaster

Prayer of Illumination

First Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

People: Thanks be to God

Second Lesson

Luke 15: 1-3; 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father.

But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.

But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“God Moves...Down the Road”
Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

We respond to the Word of God in prayer and by offering ourselves and our substance.

*Affirmation of Faith

Confession of the Belhar

Congregation

We believe ...

that God wishes to teach the church
what is good and to seek the right.

We believe ...

that the church must therefore
stand by people in any form of suffering and need,
which implies, among other things,
that the church must witness against
and strive against any form of injustice,
so that justice may roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

We believe ...

that the church as the possession of God
must stand where the Lord stands,
namely against injustice and with the wronged.

We believe ...

that in following Christ
the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged
who selfishly seek their own interests
and thus control and harm others.

Therefore ...

we reject any ideology
which would legitimate forms of injustice
and any doctrine which is unwilling
to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“There Is A Fountain”
arr. Victor Labenske
Jaron Marcus, Piano

*Doxology Hymn No. 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore.
Amen.**

Congregation
Jaron Marcus, Piano

*Prayer of Dedication

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

Worship equips us to go forth to serve God in the world.

*Sending Hymn No. 475

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
Handbell Choir/Jaron Marcus, Piano

*Charge and Blessing

*Sung Response GTG 701

“Lord, Prepare Me”
Jaron Marcus, Piano

*Postlude

“Oh Lord You're Beautiful”
Keith Green
Jaron Marcus, Piano

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Participating in Worship Leadership:
Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan, Presider
Laura Sidlinger, Liturgist
Brad Stipcak, Dir. of Music
Jaron Marcus, Piano
Peter Sandquist, Audio/Visual
Matt Blum, Audio/Visual

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