

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield
Order of Worship for the First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021 at 11:15 a.m.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Organist: Mike Belote

Worship Leader: Howard Bradley

Moment with Young Disciples: Linda Thomas

Welcome

We Approach God

Call to Worship

O come, let us worship the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God; we are people of his pasture, and sheep of his hand.

Prayer of the Day

God of the covenant, as the forty days of the flood swept away the world's corruption and brought new beginnings of righteousness and life, so in the saving water of Baptism we are washed clean and born again. Throughout these forty days, unseal within us the wellspring of your grace, cleanse our hearts of all that is not worthy, and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

"This Is My Father's World"

Glory to God 370

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Father's world. The battle is not done: Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

Call to Confession

"The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). In faith, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you call us to worship and serve only you. Yet, when other things demand our attention, we stray from the path Jesus walked. We serve powers that privilege the comfort of some over the wellbeing of many. We serve a culture that values competition over collaboration. We serve our own desires without considering the needs of our neighbors. Forgive us, Lord. Send your Spirit to guide us back to you. Free us from the clutches of sin and death and

draw us close, that we might respond to the grace we know in Christ and follow the ways of justice and righteousness. We pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

“God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our sins, has made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved!” (Ephesians 2:4–5). In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

God Speaks to Us Through God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

God of shining splendor, your voice makes the earth tremble in wonder. Send your Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds, so that we may hear your Word and live as covenant people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Isaiah 58:9b – 14 The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Moment with Young Disciples

New Testament Luke 13:10 – 17 The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “Pray Without Ceasing, Not Work Without Ceasing” Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

We Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from *The Confession of 1967*, 9.08

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience to God led him into conflict. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

Invitation to the Offering

There is only one God, from whom all things come and for whom we live. In gratitude and faith, let us offer our lives and gifts to the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

God of heaven and earth and every galaxy, we praise you for your tremendous wisdom and love. When we have been slow to follow your way, you have been patient with us. Through the obedience of your Son, you have forgiven us and renewed our life. Give us grace by your Spirit to extend your kindness beyond our family and congregation to strangers in need. We present our offerings as a sign of our gratitude. We pray through Jesus Christ. Amen.

God Sends Us into the World

Hymn of Dedication

“O Word of God Incarnate”

Glory to God 459

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky: we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page, a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The church from you, dear Savior, received this gift divine; and still that light is lifted on all the earth to shine. It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through, amid the rocks and quick-sands still guides, O Christ, to you.

O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold to bear before the nations your true light, as of old; O teach your wandering pilgrims by this our path to trace, till clouds and storms thus ended, we see you face to face.

Invitation to Discipleship and Benediction

Dr. Anderson