

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

**March 7, 2021 at 11:15 a.m.**

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Organist: Mike Belote

Minute for Mission: Rosemary Sprague

**Welcome**

We Approach God

**Call to Worship**

from Psalm 46

The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved. God will help it when the morning dawns. Let us worship God!**

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, the fountain of life, to a humanity parched with thirst you offer the living water of grace which springs up from the rock, our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may learn to profess our faith with courage and announce with joy the wonder of your love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise**

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

*Glory to God* 687

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame, from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

**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**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been. By your Spirit, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. We pray through Christ our Lord. 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**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe! You have blessed us with your commandments and taught us to read your Word. Send your Spirit to open our hearts and minds to receive what you have to say to us today. We pray in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

**Old Testament**        Esther 1:1 – 22

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Moment with Young Disciples**

**New Testament**        1 Corinthians 10:1 – 13

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**                “Vashti’s Refusal”                        The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

### We Respond to God’s Word

**Affirmation of Faith**    *Apostles’ Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn**                        “How Firm a Foundation”                        *Glory to God 463*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God’s excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.”

### **Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

**Minute for Mission**                      One Great Hour of Sharing

### **Invitation to the Offering**

The Lord our God graciously provides for our needs. In gratitude, let us present his tithes and our offerings.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**Gracious God, you revealed your love for the world in Jesus’ self-offering on the cross. It is a mystery: the sinless One died to save guilty humankind. We are grateful that you speak by your Word and Spirit, through pastors and teachers, to help us receive this gift. May we live with a deeper understanding of true wisdom. Receive these offerings, so that those who are weak in the world will be made strong through our church’s ministries. We pray in the name of Christ, who died and is risen indeed. Amen.**

### God Sends Us into the World

**Hymn of Dedication**                      “Let Us with a Gladsome Mind”                      *Glory to God 31*

Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind: for God’s mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

God with all-commanding might filled the new-made world with light: for God’s mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living God does feed, with full measure meets their need: for God’s mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

**Invitation to Discipleship and Benediction**                      Dr. Anderson