

LARGE PRINT BULLETIN
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Knowing Christ.....Making Christ Known

March 17, 2019
9:45 A.M. Traditional



Rembrandt van Rijn, *Return of the Prodigal*

GATHERING THOUGHT

"Leaving home is, then, much more than an historical event bound to time and place. It is a denial of the spiritual reality that I belong to God with every part of my being, that God holds me safe in an eternal embrace, that I am indeed carved in the palms of God's hands and hidden in their shadows."

-Henri Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

March 17, 2019

9:45 A.M.

PRELUDE *O God Thou Faithful God* Bach

WELCOME *(Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad in your pew.)*

CHORAL INTROIT *And Can It Be* Forrest

*Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my God shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my God shouldst die for me?
Amazing love!*

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 27: 1, 4, 14)

*Leader: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I
fear?*

**People: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I
be afraid?**

Leader: One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

People: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

*Leader: to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His
temple.*

**People: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take
courage; wait for the LORD!**

HYMN #182*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**(stand if able)*

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this dark world’s light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and
In that light of life I’ll walk till traveling days are done.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.....(*time for us to offer silent prayers of confession*).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

HYMN #415 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* (stand if able)
(choir sings first verse; congregation join on refrain)

Come, ye sinners, poor and needs, weak and wounded,
Sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love, and power.

Refrain: I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)
(please stand if able)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone
equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's
commandments, we violate the image of God in others and
ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and
threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's
condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant
people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God
delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father
who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

THOUGHT FOR CHILDREN

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING – “*The Peace of Christ*”

HYMN #802 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (remain seated)

Choir: The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

All: Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

All: Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

Men: In death’s dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Women: Thou spread’st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

All: And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE 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.

OFFERTORY*God So Loved The World*

Bock

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that who so believeth, believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that who so believeth, believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. God so loved the world.

DOXOLOGY *(please stand if able)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from Feasting on the Word)*

O God, all that we have comes from You. Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives, for we return to You only what You have so graciously given. Use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen. *(please be seated)*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 15: 11-32

(Page 850)

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

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 travelled 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."

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #215 *What Wondrous Love is This* (please stand if able)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C Major

Bach

Thank you for worshipping with us today.