

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Knowing Christ.....Making Christ Known

March 24, 2019
9:45 A.M. Traditional



Rembrandt van Rijn, *Prodigal Among Pigs*

GATHERING THOUGHT

"There is a finely tuned nuance added to the story by the use of the word 'arise.' As a prelude to his self-serving plan the prodigal thinks to himself, 'I will arise and go.' A 'resurrection' is needed, and at this point he thinks that he can accomplish that resurrection on his own."

Ken Bailey, *The Cross and the Prodigal*

HYMN #624 *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art (stand if able)*

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
My only trust and Savior of my heart,
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
Reigning omnipotent in every place:
So come, O King, and our whole being sway;
Shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

Thou art the life, by which alone we live,
And all our substance and our strength receive;
Sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,
And give us strength in every trying hour.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness;
No harshness hast thou and no bitterness.
O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
That we may dwell in perfect unity.

Our hope is in no other save in thee;
Our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
That in thy strength we evermore endure.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the universe,
we imagine that we are in familiar territory,
that we know what to expect of this hour,
that we will leave much the way that we came.
Do not abandon us to our foolishness.

In judgment, illumine our darkness.
In mercy, bear us home –
until we recognize Your presence wherever evil is confronted,
when truth is spoken, and the hope of life is restored.....(*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.

APOSTLES' CREED (*please stand if able*)

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.

THOUGHT FOR CHILDREN

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING – *“The Peace of Christ”*

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

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Rutter

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk thro’ the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me. Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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, in days of want and in days of plenty, You have been with us. By these gifts we share, may others know of Your providence and care. Use us and these gifts to console, comfort and encourage Your children everywhere, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. *(please be seated)*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 15: 14-20

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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.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“What’s My Line?”

Don Lincoln

HYMN #442*Just As I Am**(please stand if able)*

Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE***Psalm XIX*

Marcello

Thank you for worshipping with us today.