

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church

Fort Worth, Texas

Service for THE LORD'S Day

5th Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 – 11:00 A.M.

Bold text: All | Regular text: Leader | †: Please stand in body or spirit.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE:

PEAL OF THE TOWER BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

The LORD makes a new covenant with us.

Jeremiah 31:31, 33

We are God's people; the LORD is our God.

†HYMN: 826 *Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

LITANY FOR LENT

For forty days and nights the rain fell, and the waters covered the face of the earth.

Lead us, O LORD, from death to life.

For forty years the people wandered, seeking the land of God's promise.

Lead us, O LORD, from death to life.

Moses spent forty days on the mountain, learning the commandments of God.

Lead us, O LORD, from death to life.

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness to hear the voice of God in the silence.

Lead us, O LORD, from death to life.

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days and was tested by the devil.

Lead us, O LORD, from death to life.

(Prayer continues...)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Are you thirsty for grace? Are you hungry for mercy?

Isaiah 55:1

God is calling; come to the waters.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(kneeling or bowing down)*

Almighty God, our Redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope.

We have judged others, spread fear, and wasted our time and resources on lesser things. Forgive us. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through Jesus Christ, our gracious and patient Savior. Amen. *(Moment of silent confession)*

KYRIE



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's mercy is freely given in the grace of our baptism—safe passage through the sea, justice rolling down like water, deliverance from sin and death forever.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Therefore, let the peace of the LORD Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please stand and greet your neighbors with a sign of Christ's peace.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dan Miles

LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Pew Bible OT p. 735

All of this is from God, who entrusts us with the message of reconciliation.

Thanks be to God.

LESSON FROM THE EPISTLES: Hebrews 5:5-10

Pew Bible NT p. 220

All of this is from God, who entrusts us with the message of reconciliation.

Thanks be to God.

All children 5th grade and younger are invited into the center of the sanctuary to surround the Gospeler during the Gospel Processional Hymn. Afterwards, the children will be led out of the sanctuary to the Chapel for Godly Play and return during the hymn that follows the sermon.

†GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 220 *Go to Dark Gethsemane*, stanzas 1-2 | 3-4

REDHEAD 76

†LESSON FROM THE GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

Pew Bible NT p. 106

All of this is from God, who entrusts us with the message of reconciliation.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "God's Covenantal Renewal"

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth J. Callender, *Interim Pastor*

TIME OF REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

†HYMN: 688 *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

MORECAMBE

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES' CREED

Ecumenical Version

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our LORD, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the righthand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (2015)

Philip W. J. Stopford (b. 1977)

Debra Nyul & Alicia Cruz, soloists

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.*

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

†DOXOLOGY 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD (*kneeling or bowing down*)

Response: Hear us O God.

Your mercy is great.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*kneeling or bowing down*)

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.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

†HYMN: 264 *At the Name of Jesus*

KING'S WESTON

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

PEAL OF THE TOWER BELLS

POSTLUDE:



Think. Serve. Worship. Belong.



SCAN ME

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MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. STEPHEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church celebrates liturgical worship to the glory of God, embraces a progressive theology, engages in mission, serves with compassion, and intentionally includes all with love.