**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (B)**

*Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles*

Sunday 21 March 2021

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*I Surrender All*

*Jesus Lover of My Soul*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN**





**OPENING SENTENCE**

**Presider: +** Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

***People: God’s mercy endures for ever.***

**DECALOGUE**

**Presider:** Hear the commandments of God to God’s people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

**Presider:** You shall not make for yourself any idol.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

**Presider:** You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

**Presider:** Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy*.**

**Presider:** Honor your father and your mother.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy.***

**Presider:** You shall not commit murder.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy*.**

**Presider:** You shall not commit adultery.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy*.**

**Presider:** You shall not steal.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy*.**

**Presider:** You shall not be a false witness.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy*.**

**Presider:** You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

***People: Amen. Lord have mercy*.**

**CONFESSIONAL SENTENCE**

**Presider:** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Presider:** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***All: Creative, passionate God, you have delighted in shaping the world into a thing of beauty and harmony. You have invited us to be constructive participates in maintaining the health and wholeness of creation. You have given us the capacity to grow in wisdom through experience; to learn from our errors; to find strength and courage when faced with danger and difficulty. Yet too often we decline the gifts you offer; too often we succumb to temptation; too often we fail to consider the consequences of what we do and say; too often we let our words and actions be governed by fear, anger, or hurt rather than by confidence, compassion, and joy. We cannot undo all our mistakes; but we can turn once more to the living presence of Jesus and find new ways to live and love each other and the earth. Dear God, we ask you to help us to do so. Open our hearts and minds that we might acknowledge our sin, repent, and return to you. Grant us the forgiveness that restores and renews us.***

*(Silence)*

**Presider:** God takes broken promises and turns them into vows of faithfulness. God takes our biggest failings and shapes lives of service. God listens to our prayers of confession and changes them into songs of mercy. **+**The one who pours forgiveness into our lives has promised that with repentance and amendment of life our sins are forgiven.

***People: Thanks be to God!***

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

***People: And also with you.***

**Presider:** Let us pray. Lord of the new covenant, in Christ you draw all people to yourself: may we die with him to the powers of hate and let him show us a world loved by you, through Jesus Christ, the fruitful grain.

***People: Amen.***

*(We read from the various biblical translations authorized by our Church. During Lent we will be reading from the Revised English Version of 1881)*

**FIRST LESSON** Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Reader:** A reading from Jeremiah. Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the LORD; I will put my law in their inward parts, and in their heart will I write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people: and they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin will I remember no more. The Word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

**RESPONSE** *(Please say together in unison)* Psalm 51:1-13

***1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out mine offenses.***

***2. Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.***

***3. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.***

***4. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight: that thou mayest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.***

***5. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.***

***6. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.***

***7. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.***

***8. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.***

***9. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.***

***10. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.***

***11. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.***

***12. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation: and uphold me with a free spirit.***

***13. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.***

**SECOND LESSON** Hebrews 5:5-10

**Reader:** A reading from the letter to the Hebrews. Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest, but he that spake unto him, Thou art my Son, This day have I begotten thee: as he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever After the order of Melchizedek. Who in the days of his flesh, having offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and having been heard for his godly fear, though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation; named of God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. The Word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

**GOSPEL HYMN**



**GOSPEL** John 12:20-33

**Presider:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

**Presider:** Now there were certain Greeks among those that went up to worship at the feast: these therefore came to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: Andrew cometh, and Philip, and they tell Jesus. And Jesus answereth them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a grain of wheat fall into the earth and die, it abideth by itself alone; but if it die, it beareth much fruit. He that loveth his life loseth it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will the Father honour. Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour. But for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. There came therefore a voice out of heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The multitude therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it had thundered: others said, An angel hath spoken to him. Jesus answered and said, This voice hath not come for my sake, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself. But this he said, signifying by what manner of death he should die. The Gospel of the Lord.

***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

**SERMON** The Rev. M. C. Gillette

*(A brief period of silence follows the sermon)*

**NICENE CREED**

***All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Personalized Form II

**Leader:** I ask your prayers for God’s people throughout the world; for our bishops, priests, and deacons; for this congregation; and for all people who minister in God’s name. Pray for the whole Church.

(*Silence during which you may offer you own prayers, silently or aloud.)*

**Leader:** I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*(Silence during which you may offer your own prayers, silently or aloud.)*

**Leader:** I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that all who seek may find and be found by God.

***(Silence during which you may offer your own prayers, silently or aloud.)***

**Leader:**  I ask your prayers of thanksgiving for those people and ministries which help us know and love God, and for those with birthdays and anniversaries this week, in particular those whose names we raise up now, either silently or aloud: *(we will keep a 10-second silence) \_\_\_\_\_*. We give thanks, O God, for the blessings in our lives.

*(Silence during which you may offer your own prayers, silently or aloud.)*

**Leader:** I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison; I ask your prayers for those whose names we raise up now, either silently or aloud: *(we will keep a 10-second silence)*\_\_\_\_\_*.* Pray for those in any kind of need or trouble.

*(Silence during which you may offer your own prayers, silently or aloud.)*

**Leader:** I ask your prayers for our beloved departed, for those killed in the course of service to others, and for those whose names we raise up now, either silently or aloud: *(we will keep a 10-second silence)* \_\_\_\_\_*.* Pray for those who have died.

(*Silence during which you may offer your own prayers, silently or aloud*.)

**Leader:** Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

(*Silence during which you may offer your own prayers, silently or aloud.)*

*(The Presider adds this or another concluding Collect)* Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

***People: Amen.***

**THE PEACE** *(Please greet each other in the name of the Lord)*

**Presider:** God of the Garden, God of the Wilderness, you offer us your peace wherever we find ourselves. Help us to take your gift of shalom and share it with all. / God’s peace be always with you.

***People: And also with you.***

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

**Presider:** *(Gives this or another offertory sentence)* Gracious God, through our offerings of worship, time, money, and prayer, we seek to make space for you in our lives. During this season of Lent, may we endeavor to loosen our grasp on the treasures of this world and seek to store up for ourselves treasure in heaven. May we, with generous hearts, use the gifts we have been given for your good work of justice, peace, and service in the world.

***People: Amen.***

**OFFERTORY HYMN**  H1982, #147



**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** Lent/PCUSA

**Presider:**  Like a tent in the wilderness the table of God stands open and ready as a place of sanctuary and safety, of hospitality and healing. So come, all you who are tired and travel-stained, footsore and famished; come with your fellow travelers and find companionship and comfort. For here, Jesus – who knows what it is to wander, watch and wrestle in desert places – waits to meet us and welcome us in, offering us rest and restoration, solace and strength, for the journey still to come.

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

***People: And also with you.***

**Presider:** Lift up your hearts.

***People: We lift them to the Lord.***

**Presider:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Presider:** It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You made a covenant with our ancestor Abraham, promising to make of him a great nation, and a blessing to all the families of the earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels; with prophets, apostles, and martyrs; and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

***All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

**Presider:** You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Out of your great love for the world, you sent Jesus, not to condemn, but to save, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but have eternal life, born again from above by water and the Spirit.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. **+** With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you as holy and living sacrifices, a people dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

***All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.***

**Presider:** **↑**On the night when he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying “This is my body, which is given for you. Eat, and remember me.”

**↑**When their supper had ended, Jesus took a cup of wine, blessed it, and gave it, also, to his disciples, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Drink, and remember me.”

Gracious God, **∞** pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be for us the body and blood of Christ, the food and drink of new and unending life in him.

By your Spirit, make us one us with Christ and one with your church in all the world. By faith, make us children of Abraham, justified by the righteousness and grace of Christ, so that we may share the blessings of your covenant people.

**↑** Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. ***AMEN.***

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**LORD’S PRAYER** *(Please remain standing and say together in unison)*

***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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

**FRACTION** *(Please remain standing)*

**Presider:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

***All: have mercy on us.***

**Presider:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

***All: have mercy on us.***

**Presider:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

***All: grant us peace.***

**PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS** *(Please remain standing and say together in unison)*

***All: We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.***

**Presider:**  **↑**The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**COMMUNION HYMN** H1982, #314

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

***All: Lord of this feast beyond measure and price; we thank you for meeting us in our brokenness so that none might be lost: liberate us now to share bread with our neighbor, each receiving from the other what we need to be ourselves. Amen.***

**SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

**Presider:**  Bow down before the Lord. Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord.  ***Amen.***

**CLOSING HYMN** H1982, #150





**DISMISSAL** *(Please remain standing)*

**Presider:** The Holy One whom we serve promises that the Word will abide with us in our times of trouble and testing, and the Spirit sustain us in the wilderness. Trusting in this promise, we go into the world rejoicing in the faithfulness of the Lord our God.

***People: Amen.***

Collect of the Day, Introduction to the Peace, and Post-Communion Prayer: based on Lenten Seasonal Materials in Prayers for an Inclusive Church (Steven Shakespeare)

Confession: from *Tempting!  Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Lent*, written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dilley.  Posted on the United Church of Christ’s Worship Ways website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>

Assurance of Pardon: https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/act-of-confession-lent-1-b.html

Eucharistic Prayer and Dismissal based on Prayers for Lent material from the Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)