

March 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude "Amazing Grace" New Britain, arr. Held

Welcome

Missions & Ministries

Invocation

Choral Introit "Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days" NCH # 211
Lord Jesus, who through forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.

Call to Worship

Pastor: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit is no deceit.

Pastor: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, o righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Opening Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" NCH # 43
Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest.
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, never more your temples leave,
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms out-stretched above.

Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love and praise.

~ *Coming Alive in Community* ~

Call to Confession

Let us come to our time of confession with humility and trust in God's grace.

Prayer of Confession

God of truth, how difficult it is for us to be truthful before you. We want to hide our anxieties and fears, our resentments and self-centeredness. Cut through our evasions by the truth of your word, and help us to be honest.

God of mercy, your hopes for us are greater than our own, yet our failures do not surprise you. Forgive us, we pray, even for the sin we cannot see or find it painful to confess.

God of love, accept us as we are, so that we may accept ourselves. Teach us to affirm what is good in our lives, and to put behind us what is unworthy, that by your grace we may live in confidence and joy, in the manner of Jesus our Christ. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

Bless the Lord who forgives all our iniquity and redeems our lives from the pit. Hear again the good news; in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

Special Music

"Softly and Tenderly" Sandy Rowe, soloist
Will L Thompson © © P.D. (CCLI #28380)

~ *We Hear God's Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Maddie Mest

The Reading of Psalm 32

The Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

"O God, How We Have Wandered"

NCH # 202

O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling, you call us each by name.

And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
By faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

O God of all the living, both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

~ *Sharing Blessings With Others* ~

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior

Minister: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

All: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering our Gifts - Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries

One Great Hour of Sharing - provides disaster relief and community development all around the world. You can read more about OGHS at www.oghs@ucc.org.

Offering Response

"Give Me a Clean Heart"

NCH # 188

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you,
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings,
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.

Prayer of Dedication

~ *Going out in Joy* ~

Sending Hymn

"Great Is Your Faithfulness"

NCH # 423

Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
with you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions, they fail not
all of your goodness forever will be.

Refrain: Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy and love. (Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside. (Refrain)

Benediction

Choral Benediction “May the Sending One Defend You” NCH # 79
May the Sending One defend you, may the Seeking One amend you,
May the Keeping One befriend you, in your gladness and in your grieving.

May the Given One retrieve you, may the Gifted One relieve you,
May the Giving One receive you, in your falling and your restoring.

May the Binding One unite you – may the One Beloved invite you –
May the Loving One delight you – Three-in-One, joy in life unending.

Postlude “Praeludium & Fughetta” J.K.F. Fischer

Announcements

The Prayer Community asks you to join with us this week in praying for:

Verna Walters
Elaine and Jim Bevans
Barbara and Jesse Painter
Sheree and Rick Scheler
Lois Iezzi

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

Sun., 3/27 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
 ~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am
 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
Tues., 3/29 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
Wed., 3/30 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 7 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun., 4/3 ~ Reflective Worship service with Communion at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
 ~ Worship service with Communion in the sanctuary at 9:45 am
 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
Tues., 4/5 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
Wed., 4/6 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 7 pm

Scripture Readings for April 3:

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; John 12:1-8

Pottstown Cluster. This month's items are body wash (adults and kids), shampoo, conditioner and bar soap. Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster. We will be collecting each week and items will change on a monthly basis. Items for next month will be adult lotion, deodorant, feminine tampons, laundry detergent.

Lenten Bible Study. We will be offering opportunities for education and discussion about white privilege. We will be using the UCC curriculum "White Privilege, let's talk, A Resource for Transformational Dialogue."

In an effort to make the discussion available to as many people as possible there will be three different discussion times in which to participate:

Sunday after worship, 11:00 am

Tuesday at 11:00 am

Wednesday at 7:00 pm

All discussions are planned to take place in person in the social hall. Each group will be working on the same topic while the discussions will vary according to the people who attend.

Easter Flowers



There are envelopes available in the narthex for you to order Easter flowers. Please complete the envelope, put your payment inside and give the envelope to Tootie or Louise.

Ukrainian Relief

First, we elected to send \$2,500 now from our Mission and Service Allocation through the Conference to Hungarian Reformed Church Aid. They are providing refugee support in Hungary and the surrounding area.

Second, starting this Sunday through Easter, you can make a donation for Ukrainian Relief through Shenkel. You can include your donation with your envelope or separately. Just mark your contribution as "Ukraine" and we will send those funds through the Conference also. Let us continue to keep the Ukrainian people in our prayers.