

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

SAINT GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Engagement  
Serve  
participation Affirming  
Transformative  
Inclusive Engage Vibrant  
discipleship  
Cultivate Welcoming meet  
Programs Spark  
Saint Giles  
Open Vision serving  
Faith church activities  
God, Ministries  
Relationship  
embrace nurturing  
Everyone  
Purposeful

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SILENCE**

**GATHERING SONG            *Come and Fill Our Hearts***

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
Alleluia!*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One:            From the shadows of isolation and shutdowns  
Many:        **we gather to be with our God who brings us the light of hope.**  
One:            From the silence of our homes or in socially distanced worship spaces,  
Many:        **we gather to be with Jesus, who will not let anything, now or ever, separate us.**  
One:            From the hollowness of our hearts and the hunger for human touch,  
Many:        **we gather to be with the Spirit, who feeds us for the Lenten journey,**  
All:            **who marks us as God's very own.**

**HYMN# 81            *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken***

*Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God.  
God, whose word cannot be broken,  
formed thee for a blest abode.  
On the rock of ages founded,  
what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*Round each habitation hovering,  
see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a covering,  
showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from their banner  
light by night and shade by day,  
safe they feed upon the manna  
which God gives them when they pray.*

***See, the streams of living waters,  
springing from eternal love,  
well supply thy sons and daughters  
and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river  
ever flows, their thirst to assuage?  
Grace, so like the Lord the giver,  
never fails from age to age.***

**SCRIPTURE**

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14

Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

**One:** The word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

On this first Sunday of Lent, after a year that has seemed like a decade, we once again begin that pilgrimage toward the promised of Easter. But, fresh as this moment and as old as the dust of the earth, we must speak of how hard it has been for us to be the faithful people God calls. Let us pray, joining together in confession:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We have tried, God who knows our intentions, we have tried so hard to be your people, especially in these times of confusion, fear, and worry. We did a good job, at first, caring for those worse off than us, but now it has become easy to care more for ourselves. We are uncomfortable seeing ourselves as people of privilege, yet quickly cashed those relief checks when they could have gone to those in true need.**

**Yet, while we know how badly we have tried, we know that from the ashes of our foolish choices and lives, you can create new life and hope, God of broken hearts. You mark us as your own, so we can turn from greed to generosity, so we can move from fear to faith, so we can stand with the oppressed and forgotten, to ensure that the justice we take for granted is shared with them. You mark us as your own, so that we might follow Jesus, who forgives us and models for us how to turn away from evil to live as people of hope and grace. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**One:** Here is the good news: God does not socially distance from us, but comes close to hear our prayers, to fill our emptiness, to walk through the ashes of uncertainty, to journey with us in this holiest of seasons.

**All:** **In the midst of a pandemic of uncertainty, we can trust in the comforting, the forgiving, the restoring heart of the God who loves us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

### GOSPEL                      John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

**One:** The word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

Discerning God's Will: Start By Asking

Rev. Lance Perry

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

adapted from the Brief Statement of Faith PC(USA)

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen**

## **SONG**

### ***I Lift My Eyes Up***

***"I lift my eyes up, to the mountains  
Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from You  
Maker of heaven, Creator of the earth  
Oh how I need you Lord  
You are my only hope  
You're my only prayer  
So I will wait for you  
to come and rescue me  
Come and give me life"***

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God who walks with us through times of celebration and through times of suffering, we praise you for your steadfast love that endures forever. In these days of Lent, we look to you for clarity and guidance on our journey. Your Word reveals to us a simple truth: that sin lives in our world through human folly in believing we could be like you, and permeated history through envy, selfishness and greed. Yet sin, which holds us tight within its grasp, cannot resist a heart that is touched by your grace through Jesus Christ, cannot contend with Living Water pouring into hearts and souls. May your grace fill us in this Lenten season; that we might find you at work anew in us... that we might find new ways to love and serve you through loving and serving our neighbor. Your Word reveals to us another simple truth: that sin is defeated and we can become the people we were always meant to be, by your grace through Jesus Christ. May it be so this Lenten season...we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who taught us to pray....

**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; 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.**

**CLOSING SONG # 69      *I, The Lord of Sea and Sky***

***I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?***

**Refrain:  
*Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.***

***I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?***

**(Refrain)**

***I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?***

**(Refrain)**

## **CHARGE**

Sisters and brothers, let us claim the freedom Christ gives us by his self-giving on the cross. May he enable us to serve together in faith, hope, and love. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

## **BENEDICTION**

And may the God of love, who shared his love, strengthen us in our love for others. May the Son who shared his life grant us grace, that we might share our life. And may the Holy Spirit dwelling in us empower us to be only and always for others. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

arr. Don Hustad

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Thank you to Carol Pope for serving as our liturgist, and to David Smith, Mona Dowell, Patty Pace, and Eddie Adams for providing the music and technical support for our worship video.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray for these Members, Relatives and Friends.

Please note these newer prayer concerns:

- ❖ Mac McRackan, who fell and broke hip. He is in Rex Hospital.
- ❖ The family of Greg Myers. Greg is the son of former member Ouida Myers, and the father to Jacob Myers whom many at Saint Giles love. Greg died in a car accident earlier this year.
- ❖ Chuck Nevitt, having surgery February 10th

We continue to pray for:

Pat Lindsay  
Charolette Brown  
Dan Grassi  
Inez Ruchte  
Donna Nichols  
Peggy McNeill  
Iris Morris

Rachel Williams  
Libby Morton  
Aleta Wheeler  
Jeane Nagel  
Andrew Scharfe  
Isla Brown

Sandra Richbourg  
Dick Grassi  
Barbara Settlemeyre  
Joe Moody  
Dave Smith  
Jack Boyd

We continue to pray for these family and friends of Saint Giles members:

Sallie Taylor's sister, Janet  
Jan Morgan's daughter, Anna  
Betty Fetvedt's sister, Peggy  
Marti Ranney's friend Sherrill  
Janet Wherry's sons David & Stephen, & her sister Ev  
Rachel & Rodney Williams' daughter, Rene  
Pat & Bob Lindsay's granddaughter Rebecca, niece Stephanie & family, sister Eloise Rohner, & niece Eloise Lindsay  
Chris Zaineddin's friend Peggy, nieces Colleen, & Sourour Dehnadi, brother Ken, & friend Paul Hutter & family  
Dave & Rita Hart's friend Terry, and neighbors Sarah and Wayne  
Roberta Dibble's friend Margaret Rothman  
Carmen Rosa, along with Tania Valentine & Maurice Kersey  
Friends of Hess & Hart families, Max & Leatha Carey & family, & Allen Lee & Family  
Kimberly & Chad Craven's friend & her family  
Cindy Hemminger & family following her 5 year old cousin Hazel's diagnosis with Leukemia  
Donald and Nancy Ross' friend Terri McIrvine, and her husband and daughters  
Mary Ellen Jackson's cousin Betty Turner  
Scott Vollmer's mother, Lois  
Nathan Whittle's aunt Pauline and her son  
Carol Pope's sister, Kathy; brother, David; sister-in-law, Kacy  
Joel, nephew to Jean and Dave Smith, recovering from back surgery

\*requests in bold have been recently added or are in need of special prayer.