

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 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

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God
Based on Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SILENCE

GATHERING SONG *Wait for the Lord*

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls,

Many: for we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.

One: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways,

Many: for we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.

One: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts,

Many: for we have not only witnessed forgiveness, we have felt its power.

All: O come, let us worship the Lord!

SONG # 741 *Guide My Feet*
verses 1, 2, & 6

*Guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!)
guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!)
guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)*

Hold my hand . . .

Guide my feet . . .

SCRIPTURE

Esther 7:1-10

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. The king rose from the feast in wrath and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that the king had determined to destroy him. When the king returned from the palace garden to the

banquet hall, Haman had thrown himself on the couch where Esther was reclining; and the king said, "Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?" As the words left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman's face. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Psalmist wrote, "The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." Trusting ourselves to the grace of God, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that, truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The Lord God said: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Sisters and brothers: In Christ, all God's promises are "Yes." Hear the good news: Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed!

All: Thanks be to God!

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE Psalm 124

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side
—let Israel now say—
if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

One: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Discerning God's Will: Take A Step

Rev. Lance Perry

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

- adapted 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 God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" 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

Oceans

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of all seasons, in your pattern of things there is a time for keeping and a time for losing, a time for building up, and a time for pulling down. In this season of Lent as we journey to the cross, help us to discern in our lives what we must lay down and what we must take up, what we must end and what we must begin. Give us grace to lead a disciplined life, in glad faithfulness and with the joy that comes from a closer walk with Christ our Lord 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.

HYMN #65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.*

BENEDICTION

One: Wherever we are, whoever we are, let us never forget we are God's community.

Many: Let us share God's enduring love this week!

One: Whoever we are, wherever we might be, we know always that Christ is alive in us.

Many: Let us share Christ's enduring light into the shadows of uncertainty this week!

One: Now in this moment, and in every moment to come, remember we are gifted by the Spirit.

All: Let us share those gifts of grace, of hope, of justice, of peace with the world!

POSTLUDE

Thank you to Jean Evans 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.

This week's announcements:

Easter Lilies

If you would like to dedicate an Easter lily in honor of/in memory of a loved one, please reach out to the church office. We are doing things a little differently this year!

Holy Week and Easter at St. Giles

Maundy Thursday Worship will be a modified Tennebrae service. This service will be recorded and released on Facebook on Maundy Thursday evening, April 1, at 7:00 p.m. Music will begin at 6:45pm.

Easter Sunrise worship will be on-site at St. Giles on the Fellowship Hall porch on April 4 at 7:30 a.m. Worshipers will be social distanced, and masks will be required. Music staff will provide instrumental music and will sing with singing masks. Congregational singing is discouraged.

Easter Sunday worship will be recorded and released on Facebook with music beginning at 10:15 a.m. and the service beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Children's Ministry: Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday, April 4, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt.

It will take place at 10:00 am, in the area between the Children's Center, the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary.

Youth will be hiding the eggs beginning at 9:30, and the actual hunt will begin at 10:00. In case of inclement weather, we will use the Fellowship Hall and Porch. Bring your own baskets.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray for these Members, Relatives and Friends.

Please note these newer prayer concerns:

Tracy Perry, sister-in-law of Rev. Perry
Katharine Ray Briggs, niece of Aleta Wheeler

We continue to pray for:

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

Rachel Williams
Libby Morton
Aleta Wheeler
Jeane Nagel
Andrew Scharfe
Chuck Nevitt

Sandra Richbourg
Dick Grassi
Barbara Settlemeyre
Joe Moody
Dave Smith
Mac McRackan

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
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.*