

Palms Presbyterian Church

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent



We Come Together as God's People

Prelude Meditation on *The Lord's My Shepherd* arr. Mary McDonald
Holy, Holy, Holy arr. Dan Forrest

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Spirit of the Living God* Daniel Iverson
The Chancel Choir

Call to Worship (Responsive)

The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness and is leading us too.

We too will be tempted and tested.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit,

even into the uncomfortable places.

As we seek to follow Jesus in these 40 days,

and our whole lives long,

may we be faithful and obedient to the perfecter of our faith, Jesus the Christ,

who came to preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to the prisoners

and to liberate the oppressed!

This is our teacher and savior we follow and worship this day.

We Praise God and Celebrate God's Grace

Opening Hymn *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* # 618

Call to Confession

As we turn our face to the cross, we are keenly aware that we would rather turn away from the pain, the hurt, and the confusion the cross holds. We like the pretty cross. We like decorative, bejeweled crosses. We like shiny, lovely crosses. We confess our confusing understandings of what it means to be a cross-bearer, as we join together in our Prayer of Confession.

Prayer of Confession (union)

God of all, as we remember the crosses that marked our foreheads this Ash Wednesday and the Ash Wednesdays through the years, we think of the cross of Jesus.

Lent calls us to journey towards the cross; help us find strength in new places deep within ourselves. May we find courage and hope as we follow Jesus.

May our worship this lent help us understand our own crosses and the cross of Christ. Then, may we figure out how to bear those crosses. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. (A time for silent prayer and personal confession)

Kyrie *Lord, Have Mercy!* # 577
Kyrie eleison. Lord have mercy.

The Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news. These are the waters of baptism in which we are loved and forgiven. The promises we make for our children, are the promises that were made for us and claimed by us. We are children of the water. We are children of the cross. Thanks be to God.

***Response to God's Love and Forgiveness** *Glory Be to the Father* # 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

***Affirmation of Faith (Philippians 2:4-11)**

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Time for Children

Baptism of Theodore Stephen Gicheru Ruprecht

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Dan Forrest

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure, through a world that would deceive us, where to sin our hearts are lured.
Ever in his footsteps treading, living here, yet home above, full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Father's bidding,
faithful Lord, abide with me; Savior lead, I follow Thee. Let us also die with Jesus, by his cross he conquered death,
freed from our souls' destruction, quickened us with life's new breath. Let us mortify, while living, self and pride and die to sin,
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven. Jesus, here I die to Thee, there to dwell eternally.
Let us gladly live with Jesus, he is risen from the dead. Death is swallowed up in victory, Jesus, Thou art now our Head.
Living members of Thy body, where Thou livest, we shall be, Thou wilt keep us constantly, even so, dear Lord,
come quickly, Jesus, here I live to Thee, there to dwell eternally. Let us ever walk with Jesus.

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

606

***Prayer of Dedication**

We Hear God's Word

First Lesson

Colossians 2:6-19

Anthem

O Love, How Deep

Everett Titcomb

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take Our mortal form for mortals' sake.
For us he prayed, for us he taught, for us his daily works had wrought,
by words and signs and actions, thus Still seeking not himself, but us.
All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore for ever and forever more. Amen.

Second Lesson

Romans 8 (selected verses)

Sermon

The Cross Project: An Introduction

Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

Choral Response

There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

Anne Quigley

We Respond to God's Word

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 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 Hymn

Lift High the Cross

826

Charge and Benediction

Response

Amen

Danish

Postlude

Postlude on *St. Theodulph*

Douglas Wagner



Palms Presbyterian Church

Worship. Connect. Nurture. Serve.

Baptism of Theodore Stephen Gicheru Ruprecht February 21, 2021

Leader 1: Hear these words from Scripture: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all” (Eph. 4:4-6). In the sacrament of baptism, God’s grace becomes visible, and the church witnesses to the hope, faith, and new life found in Jesus Christ.

Leader 2: Baptism is a sign of God’s covenant of grace, our union with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, the forgiveness of sins, and our life together as God’s church. It is the sign of belonging to God and God’s church.

Leader 1: Responding to God’s steadfast love, we choose whom we will serve, turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ. In baptism, we bind ourselves to the God who is eternally with and for us, Emanuel.

Leader 2: We remember Jesus’ words: “Let the little children come unto me,” and welcome this child into the family of the church universal.

Elder: I present Theodore Stephen Gicheru Ruprecht, son of Pauline Wakonyo Ruprecht and Robert Ruprecht to receive the sacrament of baptism.

Leader 1 (to the parents): Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in His grace and love? (I/We do.)

Leader 1 (to the parents): Relying on God’s grace, do you promise to live and teach the Christian faith to Theo both at home and in the church? (I/We do).

Leader 2 (to the congregation): Do you, as disciples of Jesus Christ, promise to share the good news of the gospel with Theo in both word and deed? (We do.)

Leader 2 (to the congregation): Do you promise to guide and nurture Theo in love and prayer and encourage him to know and follow Christ? (We do.)

Thanksgiving Over the Water

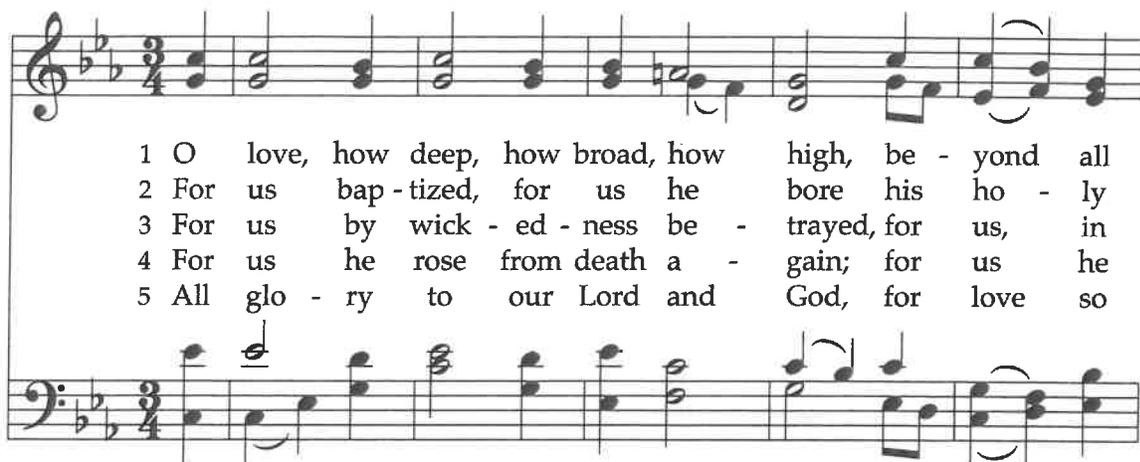
Act of Baptism

Baptismal Prayer

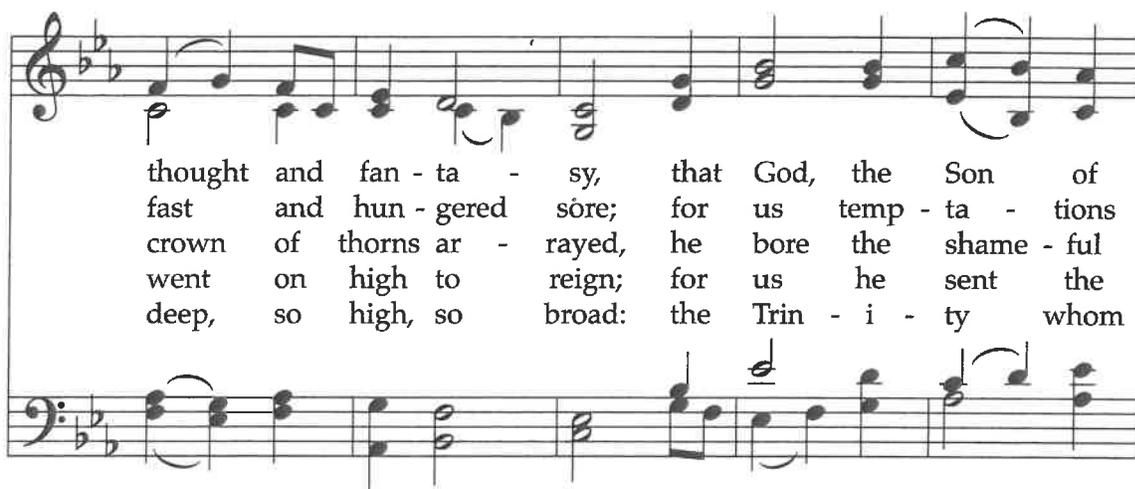
Leader 1: Theo is now received into the church universal to share in its life and ministry. Through baptism, God has made him a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ.

Leader 2: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Theo into the church universal and this family of faith.

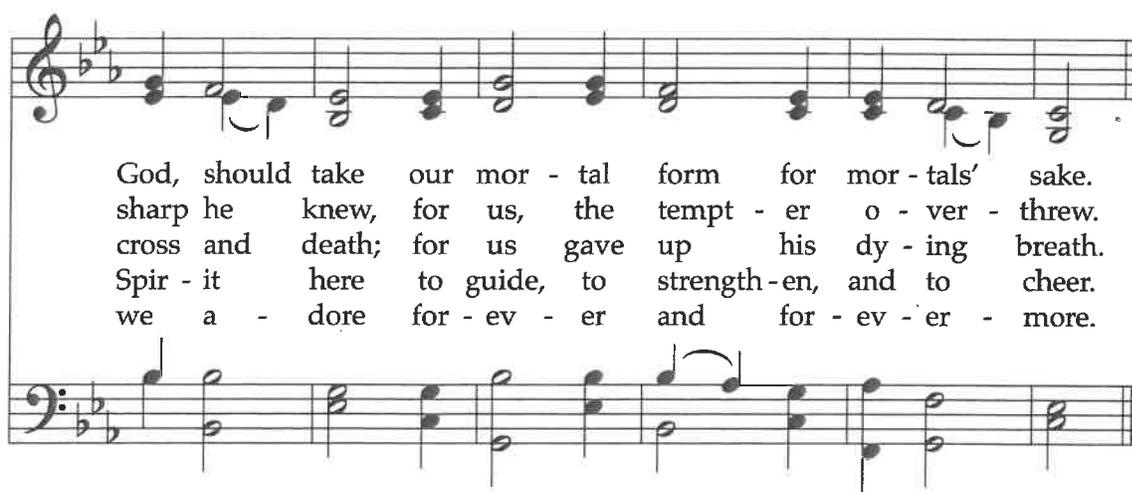
618

O Love, How Deep,
How Broad, How High


1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 3 For us by wick - ed - ness be - trayed, for us, in
 4 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he
 5 All glo - ry to our Lord and God, for love so



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 fast and hun - gered so - re; for us temp - ta - tions
 crown of thorns ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
 went on high to reign; for us he sent the
 deep, so high, so broad: the Trin - i - ty whom



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 sharp he knew, for us, the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.
 Spir - it here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
 we a - dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Reducing a twenty-three-stanza Latin text to these five English stanzas intensifies this survey of the mystery of the Incarnation and strengthens the repeated reminder that all was done "for us." A comparable tone of proclamation animates this 15th-century song celebrating a military victory.

Lift High the Cross

826

Refrain

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

to Refrain

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
 your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.