

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 7th, 2021

3rd Sunday of Lent

MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP AND COUNTDOWN

MINI MOVIE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

PRELUDE On My Heart Imprint Your Image/Bless Now, O God, the Journey

CHORAL INTROIT Into My Heart *Harry D. Clark*

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

We celebrate the steadfast love of God, our Creator.

Surely God is faithful to all who live in covenant.

From the sun's rising to its setting, the creation speaks.

Day and night, earth's creatures announce God's works.

The commandments of God are clear, enlightening the eyes.

God's law is perfect, calling forth our best.

God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.

God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The ordinances of God are true and righteous.

In following them, we gain wisdom and strength.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

All-wise and all-loving God, we are drawn together in this place because all our knowledge and discernment is not enough to give meaning to our lives. All the pieces of our busy days need a center, and we have come to see that center in the "foolishness" of the cross. There, Love went the distance for us. There, the paths of service were lifted up above our passion for personal gain. We are frightened by what you might ask of us, but we long for the wholeness only you can offer. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

*HYMN How Firm A Foundation *verses 1, 2, 3, 5* #612

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We have come to your temple, loving God, because this is your place, not ours. We confess that we sometimes forget whose house this is. We forget that all the world belongs to you as we scramble for all we can claim for ourselves. Our actions deny your love, which is at the heart of your perfect law. Our minds have justified the bending and breaking of your law to suit current trends and feelings. We cry out for forgiveness and the opportunity for a fresh start. Clear us of hidden faults and redeem us from those we recognize and confess. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When our prayers become more than pious words; when, in awe before God, we truly seek forgiveness, the Almighty becomes for us a guiding presence. We are healed, strengthened, and set free from our slavery to sin. In steadfast love, God claims us, saying: You are my people. Dare to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

*GLORIA PATRI #805

CHORAL ANTHEM The Old Rugged Cross *Bennard/Drennan*

CHILDREN'S CHAT Rev. James Deters

*HYMN Trust and Obey *verses 1, 2, 3* #523

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:1-17 (p.65); 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (p.1038) & John 2:13-22 (p.967)

MESSAGE Rev. James Deters

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed #14

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY Ah, Holy Jesus *Thomas Keesecker*

*DOXOLOGY #809

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison)

We bring our offerings, O God, not to buy your favor, but to express our gratitude, not to support an institution, but to further your mission. We support the church in its efforts to challenge the false wisdom that pervades our culture. We seek to make this community of faith a center of values that are consistent with your will. May we be zealous in your service, willing to sacrifice for love's sake, and eager to embrace your word in our everyday living. Amen.

*HYMN In the Cross *verses 1, 2, 4* #209

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

You have been embraced by God's power and love.

Dare to face the world, bearing God's wisdom.

We proclaim the crucified one, Jesus Christ.

The power of love is not destroyed by death.

Be careful in your use of God's name.

Live in awe that God chooses you as a witness.

The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.

The precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart.

The scriptures will guide us towards God's truth.

God's steadfast love will sustain us.

We will seek to keep the spirit of the commandments.

Self-giving love toward God and humanity will guide us. Amen.

BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION** Shine Out Today

POSTLUDE Hymn to Joy

Setting by John Carter

ORGANIST/PIANIST Nancy Dufek

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

SINGERS Jenny Delnay, Julie Radke,, Tim Delnay, Bill Handy

VMIX Lynn Adams **SOUND** Rob Sanders

PRODUCTION Lynn Adams

TECH SUPPORT. Ernie Bliss

Church office hours Monday--Friday from 8:15 a.m. to noon

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Kate Bernardo, Administrative Assistant kate.uppc@gmail.com

Church office phone 715-682-3093



United Presbyterian/Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

PASTOR: Reverend James Deters

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 am

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am

Website: <https://upcchurch.org>

Like us on Facebook at United Presbyterian Congregational Church

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection

Illustration by Ben Cogger

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
make of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven and sitteth at
the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the
quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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Exodus 20:1-17

p.65

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

p.1038

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

John 2:13-22

p.967

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and

doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

ACTIVITIES

March 8th 6:30 pm - Virtual Communications meeting
March 9th 8:15 am Virtual Stewardship meeting

BIRTHDAYS

7 Joyce Reynolds, Nicole Bissell & Bob Drevlow
8 Bob Ford & Kyle Rafert
9 RoAnn Ledin
10 Tiffany Hanson, Ray Fuhrman Jr. & Wesley Wickman
12 Anna Paitl, Annie Jo Erickson & Scott Walworth
13 Seth Johnson & Bill Handy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In an effort to keep the congregation informed of events and activities of interest to the church family, please submit announcements for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. The submission deadline is noon every Tuesday. Please send your information to the church office via email to info@upcchurch.org.

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How Firm a Foundation 612

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid. 1 Cor. 3:11

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
 3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
 4. "When through fier-y tri-als thy path-way shall lie,
 5. "The soul that on Je-sus still leans for re- pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex-cel-lent word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv-ers of sor-row shall not o-ver-flow;
 my grace, all suf-fi-cient, shall be thy sup-ply;
 I will not, I will not de-sert to its foes;

What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 I'll strength-en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be with thee, thy trou-bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee, I on-ly de-sign
 that soul, though all hell should en-deav-or to shake,

to you who for ref-uge to Je-sus have fled?
 up-held by my right-eous, om-ni-p-o-tent hand.
 and sanc-ti-fy to thee thy deep-est dis-tress.
 thy dross to con-sume, and thy gold to re-fine.
 I'll nev-er, no, nev-er, no, nev-er for-sake!"

Trust and Obey 523

Now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. Eph. 5:8

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a
 2. Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share, but our
 3. But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love un - til
 4. Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll

glo - ry he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he a - bides with us
 toil he will rich - ly re - pay; not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a
 all on the al - tar we lay; for the fa - vor he shows and the joy he be -
 walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will

Refrain

still, and with all who will trust and o - bey.
 cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
 stows are for them who will trust and o - bey.
 go - nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

no oth - er way to be hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.

209 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Gal. 6:14



1. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow - ering o'er the wrecks of time;
2. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, there for all was grace made free,
3. When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de - ceive and fears an - noy,
4. When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and love up - on my way,
5. Bane and bless - ing, pain and pleas - ure, by the cross are sanc - ti - fied;



all the light of sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
none de - serv - ing, yet re - ceiv - ing life thro' death at Cal - va - ry.
nev - er shall the cross for - sake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
from the cross the ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
peace is there that knows no meas - ure, joys that thro' all time a - bide.



WORDS: John Bowring, 1825
MUSIC: Ithamar Conkey, 1849

RATHBUN
8.7.8.7.