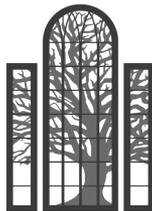




First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021



University Presbyterian Church

3240 Dalrymple Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
(225)383-0345 • www.upcbr.org

Co-Pastors: Mamie Broodhurst and Patti Snyder

Choir Director: David Walters

Organist: Anne Maverick

Ministers: The people of this church

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

We worship today gathered in Spirit if not in body, realizing perhaps more than ever the nature of the body of Christ. We gather as a resurrection people even in our time of loss and uncertainty. As we gather may we be strengthened by the Spirit who knows no boundaries.

As you prepare for worship together you may wish to light a candle representing the presence of God with you and concerns, laments, desires for healing, confessions or prayers of thanksgiving that you are particularly holding in the light of Christ today.

OPENING MUSIC

A New Creation

Behnke

Three Church Windows.

Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2017

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

God comes to us in the night –

**before the sun rises; before the wound heals;
before there are answers; before there is closure.**

God comes to us in the light –

**where joy is effervescent; where laughter is contagious, where life
blooms; and where perspective arcs in a rainbow of color.**

God comes to us at the thresholds –

**at the edge of the water; at the beginning of the wilderness;
at the start of something new; on the edge of faith.**

We are not alone. God is all around –

let us worship the God of the here and now.

HYMN No. 22

God of the Sparrow

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*responsive*)

God who meets us where we are – there is nowhere we can go that you are not.

You proclaim the belovedness of all creation in your covenant promise.

We know that you are with us – in the good, the bad, and everything in between – but so often we act as though we are alone.

Instead of coming to you with our hurt, we hold it in or cast it onto others. Instead of coming to you with thanksgiving in our joy, we credit ourselves.

How is it that we long for a deeper relationship with you and yet live like you are nowhere to be found?

Forgive our self-centered ways. Remind us that in every breath, in every step, in every creature and corner of the universe, you are there.

You come to us where we are.

Your mercies are before and behind, above and below, within and around.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (*responsive*)

Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this:

God is here. God sees you. God knows you. God comes to you at the edge of every new beginning and calls you beloved.

Thanks be to God for the covenant of love.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

No. 59 (*refrain only*)

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

Come to us again, we pray, in the reading of scripture and in the proclamation of the Word. Meet us in our hope and our heartache. Meet us in our fear and our joy. Meet us in our open hands and our clenched fists. Help us to trust your presence, always and forever running toward our hearts. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Mark 1:9-15

Genesis 9:8-17

SERMON

Andreas Giger

Patti Snyder

Patti Snyder

WE RESPOND WITH DEDICATION

*HYMN No. 713

Touch the Earth Lightly

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OF GIFTS

During this time you are encouraged to consider your response to the work of Christ in the world today, making a commitment of time, talents, and resources. Please remember your family, neighbors, the wider community, and the church in your offering. Although many things are shifting, please continue to honor previous commitments to the best of your ability.

If you choose to contribute to the work of Christ through UPC at this time, on-line giving is available via the GIVE tab on our website (www.upcbr.org) or by texting "upcbr (space) and then the number of dollars" to 73256.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*)

**In every wilderness, on every road;
in every moment, in every life;
in every journey, in every heart,
you give the blessing needed - hope, mercy, community, challenge.
For these and all your gifts we offer you our thanks. Take these
humble offerings, given in joy for the work of your reign. Make of
them pathways of return to your covenant blessing. Amen.**

HYMN No. 687 vs. 1

Our God, Our Help

*We will sing one verse each Sunday throughout Lent
until we sing all verses on Easter Sunday*

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Again and again it dawns on us,

God's love remains.

CLOSING MUSIC

This is My Beloved Son

Nystedt

St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1965

He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them,

And a voice from the cloud said:

“This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”

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