

March 21, 2021

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY**

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE**

*\*All may stand as able*

Liturgist: Lynda McLean

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome and Announcements**

the Liturgist

**Invocation**

the Liturgist

**Prelude**

*Jesus, Guide Me*  
from Cantata no. 70

J. S. Bach

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

the Liturgist

One: We come, seeking Jesus, who is for us the way, the truth, the life.

**All: We come, seeking Jesus, whose way leads to the cross, whose truth leads to suffering love, and whose life was poured out for us all.**

One: We come, seeking Jesus, who calls us to follow in this way, this truth, and this life.

**All: We come, seeking Jesus, whose love alone can empower us to do so.**

**All: We come to worship God!**

**HYMN**

*Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

EBENEZER

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us, give us words of fire and flame.

Give the church a stronger vision; help us face each crucial hour.

Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone.

Still the church is called to mission  
that God’s love shall be made known.

**CONFESSING TO GOD**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Rev. Rachel Winter

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

(Based on Psalm 51)

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sins. For we know our transgressions, and our sin are ever before us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put new and right spirits within us. Do not cast us away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us willing spirits. We pray all of this in your holy name, O God. (Silent prayer)**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

the Liturgist

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**John 12:20-33**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. <sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**ANTHEM**

*I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*

arr. Don Hustad

*Southern Harmony*, 1835

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,  
weak and wounded, sick and sore  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
Full of pity, love and pow'r.

*I will arise and go to Jesus,  
He will embrace me in His arms;  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.*

Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify,  
True belief and true repentance,  
Every grace that brings you nigh.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**SERMON**

“New Covenants”

Rev. Rachel Winter

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### \* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY      *Immortal Love, Forever Full*      William Wallace  
arr. Michael Cox

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER      the Liturgist

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.

## SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

CLOSING HYMN      *Take My Life*      HENDON  
Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee,  
Ever, only, all for thee.

CHARGE AND BLESSING      Rev. Rachel Winter

Postlude      *Processional*      Wihla Hutson

### **Welcome Rev. Rachel Winter**

Rachel Winter grew up in Birmingham and was confirmed at Second Presbyterian Church, where her dad was the pastor. She was also active at Southminster Presbyterian Church, where her mom was the director of youth ministries. In 1995, Rachel graduated with a degree in English literature from Maryville College in Maryville, TN; in 2000, she graduated with her Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. In her first call, Rachel served as the associate pastor at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Decatur, AL. She then served as the associate pastor/campus minister at First Presbyterian Church in Auburn, AL. She also served as a year-long chaplain resident at UAB Hospital in Birmingham and is currently serving as Interim Director of Children's and Youth Ministries at First Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa. Rachel is the VERY proud aunt to her niece and nephew, Blake and Jenna. She loves her basset hound/lab mix, Scout dearly, and does not remember what life was like before her. And, yes, she loves Auburn sports. Rachel also loves going to Zumba classes at the gym, eating dark chocolate, drinking red wine, traveling, listening to people's stories, giggling, reading, along with watching sports and great stuff on Netflix.

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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*March 21, 2021*

*Rev. Rachel Winter, Guest Minister*

**Everyone is welcome in God's house.**  
*"Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary  
and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you,  
because I am humble and gentle at heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.'"*  
(Matthew 11:28-29)