



Sunday, March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalms 19:7-14 (NIV)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)

- *CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY* -

Greeters: Joyce & Peter DeBarger, Marion & David Drain, Chris & David King, Linda Edwards

Ushers: Rita Simmers, Crispin Giliberti, Bill DeLong, Coleman Harris, Donna Kinsey

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Prelude

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.

At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.

* Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Leader: Praise the Lord with all that you have!

People: Praise and trust in the Lord with all your heart and soul!

Leader: For God is with us throughout all our lives.

People: God's loving presence surrounds us and comforts us

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord at all times, in all places.

All: For God is steadfast and loving to us all.

* Opening Hymn #84

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Proclaiming God's Word

Call to Confession

Will Massey

In our scripture for today, Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter said, "You are the Messiah." Have you ever wondered if his voice faltered when he answered? Did he respond loudly, boldly and with confidence, or did he respond hesitantly? We'll never know. But we can trust that, no matter how we speak to God, when we speak, God is listening. So friends, join me in the prayer of confession. Whether you say these words tentatively or speak them with conviction, may you trust that our gracious and merciful God is listening with love. Let us pray together:

Prayer of Confession

Will Massey

Holy God, some days, we are quick to declare your goodness. Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith. Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers. Forgive us for losing sight of you. Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference. Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in. Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves. We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison 572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Will Massey

Leader: Friends, whether you speak to God tentatively or with clear conviction, God will always listen with love and mercy. So rest in this good news: regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God. You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven. Speak that good news with confidence Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Passing of the Peace

Will Massey

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Gloria Patri 579

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.

*At this time, children through 4th grade are invited to attend Sunday School. Teachers are stationed at the main doors of the sanctuary and will walk the children to the children's classrooms in the Narthex.
Parents/Guardians may pick up their children after the service in the classroom.*

Anthem

"Man of Sorrows What A Name"

by Gordon Young

Scripture Readings

Psalm 19:7-14, Matthew 16:13-20

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Message

"Praise the Mount"

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Responding to God's Word

Apostle's 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.

Invitation To The Lord's Table

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer

Rev. Ken Osborne

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.

Words of Institution

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Distribution of Elements

*It is our custom at Highland to eat the bread, representing your individual relationship with God.
However, please hold the cup until all are able to partake together, representing our relationship as the body of Christ.*

Prayer After Communion

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex

Going in God's Name

* Closing Hymn #379 "My Hope Is Build on Nothing Less"

* Charge and Benediction

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

*Congregational Response

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!**

Organ and Piano Postlude

"Immortal, Invisible"

arr. Hayes and Gaspard

*PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST

A/V: MARK ANDERSON & JERRY ROTHACKER

Please be advised that services are recorded and you may be incidentally captured on video as part of the recording of the service. The back of the sanctuary is out of the range of the camera.

A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.

FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

Cell Phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.