



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



6624 Public Sq., Independence, OH; (216) 524-6307; office@ipcusa.org

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2021



C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Secretary

Sue Saunders, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

“When I say it’s you I like, I’m talking about that part of you that knows that life is far more than anything you can ever see or hear or touch. That deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive. Love that conquers hate, peace, that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed.”

~ Rev. Fred Rogers

- GATHERING -

GATHERING MUSIC

C.J. Briggs

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

by Fred Rogers

CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Psalm 107*)

Sue Saunders

O give thanks to the Holy One, for the Lord is good.

God's steadfast and healing love endures forever.

All those delivered from trouble, give thanks.

Gather from the east and from the west,

from the north and from the south, to give thanks.

Those sick with sin, cry out to the Holy One in their trouble,

and God saves them from their distress.

God's steadfast and healing love endures forever.

Come, let us worship God.

HYMN

God is Here!

GTG #409

Words by Fred Pratt Green, Music by Cyril Vincent Taylor (ABBOT'S LEIGH)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT "You Are My Friend"

by Aimee Reid

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you have set before us our greed, our hatred and self-hatred, our fear and our apathy. You have also shown us the injustice and tyrannies of our public life. We have succumbed to paralyzing anxiety in response to injustice. We have resisted the prompting of your Spirit who nudges us out of self-absorption. Empower us by your Spirit to be attentive and discerning partners in healing your creation. Amen. [Time of Silent Confession.]

RESPONSE

Shepherd Me, O God

GTG #473

by Marty Haugen (Psalm 23)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We are forgiven and restored to right paths of justice and shalom.
Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

- THE WORD -

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

HEBREW BIBLE *Numbers 21:4-9* (NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me GTG #703
Words by Paul Gerhardt, translation John Wesley; Music by Henri Frederick Henry

GOSPEL *John 3:1-21* (NRSV)

SERMON "*For God So Loved the World*" Rev. Wigger

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from A Declaration of Faith*)

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule...We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture, not expecting detailed directions for every decision, but relying on the Word to tell us who God is, to press God's present claim on us, and to assure us of God's grace and comfort. We are charged to pray for ourselves and others with gratitude, boldness, and persistence, confident that God hears and answers our prayers in ways best for us all. Life in God's presence issues in life for others, for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see, we cannot love God whom we do not see.

- RESPONDING TO THE WORD -

OFFERING

