



# INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 21, 2021



*Cross with Wheat Chaff, Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt University*

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

Wendlene Lavey, Liturgist  
Amanda Horan, Guest Preacher

*“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.”*

*~Jeremiah 31:33*

## - GATHERING -

GATHERING MUSIC

C.J. Briggs

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude in C  
Sergei Prokofiev

Op. 12 No 7

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Jer. 31:33-34; Jn. 12:16, 28-29*)

Holy God, like the sound of thunder, like the voice of angels,  
you call to you people from the heavens.

**Open our ears to hear your voice.**

Ancient God, in the quiet silence of our hearts,  
you write your words of promise and forgiveness.

**Open our hearts to know your covenant.**

Living God, through the teaching of your Son Jesus,  
you encourage us to come, to serve, and to love.

**Open our lives to follow where you lead and go where you go.**

Come, let us worship God.

HYMN

In the Bulb There is a Flower  
Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth

GTG #250

*Children are dismissed to Sunday School.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Book of Common Worship, 50*)

**Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. [Time of Silent Confession.]**

RESPONSE

Shepherd Me, O God  
by Marty Haugen (Psalm 23)

GTG #473

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*Jer. 31:34*)

The Lord comes to us with a new covenant, saying: “I will write my law on your hearts; I will forgive your wrongdoing and remember your sins no more.” Hear the good news and believe it: **We are forgiven! Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **- THE WORD -**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

#### **HEBREW BIBLE**

*Jeremiah 31:31-34*

(NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **GOSPEL**

*John 12:20-33*

(NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **SERMON**

Amanda Horan

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from The Confession of 1967*)

**God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of man’s mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals God’s love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love.**

## **- RESPONDING TO THE WORD -**

### **OFFERING**

**RESPONSE**                    Be Still and Know That I Am God                    GTG #414  
    by John L. Bell (Psalm 46)

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Response*                    When We Must Bear Persistent Pain                    GTG #807  
    Text by Ruth Duck; Music by David N. Johnson                    Verse 4

*The Lord's Prayer*

**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 -**

**HYMN**                    Just as I Am, Without One Plea                    GTG #442  
    Words by Charlotte Elliott; Music by William Batchelder Bradbury

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                    Gavotte in G Minor                    Op. 12 No. 2  
    Sergei Prokofiev

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(NRSV) = New Revised Standard Version  
GTG = "Glory to God" Hymnal

Our guest preacher today is **Amanda Horan**. Amanda is a candidate for ministry under the care of Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian and is currently serving as a Clinical Pastoral Education Resident at St. Vincent's Charity Medical Center in Cleveland. Amanda is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where she obtained a Master of Divinity degree as well as a Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry. Before entering seminary, she served as the Director of Christian Education at a PC(USA) church in Tempe, AZ.