

MINISTRY OF GIVING

OFFERTORY Chorale from "Brahms' Variations on a Theme by Haydn"

Johannes Brahms

*DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN OF SENDING #473 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #4 "Bless His Holy Name"

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
He has done great things, he has done great things, he has done great things, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.**

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY "Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart"

Johann Kindermann



WELCOME VISITOR! We are delighted that you are here to share worship of our Lord Jesus this morning together with the rest of us. We want you to be well informed about the Christian faith and about the church so don't be afraid to ask. You may communicate with us in several ways. Ask a neighbor in your pew, fill out a blue first-time visitor card, add your name to the Ritual of Friendship pad and by all means do not hesitate to contact our pastor. May God bless you this morning and throughout the week.

Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor
Dorothy Clark, Organist
Glory Cumbow, Youth Director
Tom Francis, Custodian Emeritus

Ward Gailey, Music Director
Linda Hodges, Office Manager
Nursery: Suzie Wharton & Breon Williams

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

**March 12, 2017
11:00 a.m.**



*Jesus answered Nicodemus,
"Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God
without being born from above."
John 3:3*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

(Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices during this hour of worship.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Wondrous Love, Variation 1"

Robert Lau

"What wondrous love is this, O my soul..."

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Cooper Keller

Please use this time for silent meditation and preparation for worship. Prayer cards are in the pew rack in front of you for submission to church prayer list.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Those who are able, please stand.

*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT #251 "I Come to the Cross"

I come to the cross seeking mercy and grace; I come to the cross where you died in my place. Out of my weakness and into your strength; humbly I come to the cross. Your arms are open, you call my by name, you welcome this child that was lost. You paid the price for my guilt and my shame; Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come to the cross

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 121)

Liturgist: Cooper Keller

Leader: We lift up our eyes to the hills -- from where will our help come?

All: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: He who keeps us will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

All: The Lord will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forever more.

All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #87 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, forgive us when we begin to feel entitled, when we take for granted the goodness that comes only because of your grace. And forgive us when we think our own efforts are enough, or when we think we must work harder in order to earn your favor. Lord, please help us to clearly see and truly believe that it is in you only that we live and move and have our being. Please continue to hear us as we confess now in silence ...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Romans 8:1-2)

Leader: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and of death. Friends, give thanks again for the grace of God:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA

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, Amen.

PROCLAIMING AND ENACTING THE WORD

*HYMN OF CONSECRATION #463 "Revive Us Again"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Monica Coutin-Baxter

(Children will be dismissed to Children's Worship following the anthem.)

ANTHEM "My Worth is Not in What I Own" Kendrick-Getty, arr. Angerman

Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-4a

Page 9, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING John 3:1-17

Page 88, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Born Again?"

Rev. Susan Bennett

RESPONDING TO THE 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.