

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 #66 "To God Be the Glory"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #590 "Rise Up, O Saints of God!" (verse 3)
**Rise up, O saints of God! His kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.**

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY



Zachary Smith

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
Stephanie Dunn, Youth Director
Ward Gailey, Music Director
Zachary Smith, Musician

Linda Hodges, Office Manager
Tom Francis, Custodian
Nursery: Stephanie Phillips & Megan Johnson

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

March 15, 2015

11:00 a.m.



And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

John 3:14-15

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

(Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices during this hour of worship.
Otherwise, Susan will turn into her evil twin and give you The Look.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Acolyte: Alex Seal

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Linda Roberts

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 #97 "Meekness and Majesty" (verse 3)

Wisdom unsearchable, God, the invisible; love indestructible in frailty appears. Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly; lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne. O what a mystery, meekness and majesty; bow down and worship, for this is your God.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 107)

Liturgist: Greg Lathrop

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

All: Let us thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

Leader: Let us offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #23 "All Creatures of Our God and King" (vs. 1, 4, 5 only)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, forgive us when we choose the way of sin and selfishness, ignoring the way of love you offer us. Forgive us when we choose resentment over forgiveness, greed over generosity, anger over peace. Open our hearts more fully to your Spirit, that we may be transformed into the image of your Son. Please continue to hear us as we confess now in silence ...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (1 Timothy 1:15a)

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Friends, give thanks again for the great good news of the kingdom 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 #251 "I Come to the Cross"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Stephanie Dunn

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

ANTHEM "Love Lifted Me" Tom Eggleston

Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Numbers 21:4-9

Page 134, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING John 3:14-21

Page 88, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Serpents and Salvation"

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.

MINISTRY OF GIVING

OFFERTORY "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" Arr. Jim Lucas

Zachary Smith

*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.**