

MINISTRY OF GIVING

OFFERTORY "Aria for Meditation"

Theodore W. Ripper

*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 #405 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

*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 "Drawn to the Cross"

Gottlieb Muffat



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 19, 2017
11:00 a.m.**



*Suffering produces endurance,
and endurance produces character, and character
produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us.
Romans 5:3b-4a*

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 2

Robert Lau

"to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM"

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Stephanie Phillips

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.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 95)

Liturgist: Stephanie Phillips

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

All: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #59 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, forgive us when we complain, when we criticize what we don't understand. Forgive our fear, and the fruitless worry that keeps us awake at night and fretful in the daytime. Forgive us, and help us trust you with all our heart, knowing that we are safe with you forever. Please continue to hear us as we confess now in silence ...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Romans 5: 1-2a)

Leader: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand. Friends, give thanks again for the great good news of the gospel:

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 #589 "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Tami Pass

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

ANTHEM "Shout to the Lord" Zschech-Hine, arr. Koerts

Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Exodus 17:1-7

Page 61, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Romans 5:1-11

Page 145, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Hope in the Desert"

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.