

MINISTRY OF GIVING

OFFERTORY "To God, the Father of All Love"

unknown German composer, 18th century

*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 #358 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #294 "Christ Arose!" (verse 1)

**Low in the grave he lay — Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day — Jesus my Lord!
Up from the grave he arose with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY "Finale"

Gilbert M. Martin



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

**April 30, 2017
11:00 a.m.**



*You have been born anew,
not of perishable but of imperishable seed,
the living and enduring word of God.
1 Peter 1:23*

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 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

arr. Alfred V. Fedak

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Gene Ingram

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 116)

Liturgist: Jo Linda Ingram

Leader: We love you, Lord.

All: You have heard our voice and our supplications.

Leader: You incline your ear to us.

All: Therefore we will call on you forever.

All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #48 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, forgive us when our hearts grow cold, when we neglect and even ignore you. Forgive the times we decide we are too busy to pray, when we give in to distractions and let the world control what we do with our time. Help us to remember your deep and unfailing love for us, and reawaken our first love for you. Please hear us now as we continue our confession 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 God's great mercy and love:

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 #437 "Jesus Loves Me"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Monica Coutin-Baxter

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

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION "And Can It Be"

arr. Albin C. Whitworth

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING 1 Peter 1:17-23

Page 218, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Page 112, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "First Love"

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.