

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Acolyte: Payton Scott

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Tony Williams

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 the church prayer list.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT "Seek Ye First"

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!
Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia!*

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 85)

Liturgist: Linda Roberts

Leader: Let us hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

All: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

All: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE "136 "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, our sins are many and varied, and only you can forgive us. We come to you now to repent and ask your pardon. When we sin, it is because we've forgotten the truth and power of your love, and gone our own way in distrust and rebellion. Please, as you forgive, also strengthen us to fully receive your love and grace, so that we may be strong against sin, and stronger still to offer your grace to others when they sin against us. Please hear us now as we continue our confession in silence ...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (John 3:16)

Leader: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. My friends, give thanks again for God's love for us:

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

*GLORIA PATRI

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 #40 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

David E. Dillard

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Genesis 1:26-31

Aaron Roberts

God created us for himself, out of his love, his own desire to love us and for us to love him back. His very nature is love; he cannot be anything but what he is, and love needs a place to be given and to be received.

HYMN #38 "Touch the Earth Lightly"

SECOND READING Exodus 34:6-10

Sue Scheer

When we tested God's love with our sin and rebellion, he showed us grace and once again promised his faithfulness. The covenant he made with Moses and the Israelites would be fulfilled eternally in Jesus Christ.

*HYMN #428 "It Is Well With My Soul"

THIRD READING Luke 2:25-32

Jim Beisner

When God's Son, Jesus, was born, God's promises were fulfilled and the covenant of forgiveness and grace was made real and eternal. This is God's covenant of love with us, his people. It's not of our own doing; our salvation comes from God alone through Jesus Christ.

HYMN #358 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

FOURTH READING Luke 13:31-35

David E. Dillard

Jesus, God's Son come to earth and our Savior and Hope, echoes God's words of love to his people.

*HYMN #422 "Amazing Grace!"

FIFTH READING Luke 10:25-28

Carolyn Francis

God's people have always struggled, and struggle today, with God's free gift of grace. We feel we must be good enough, or somehow earn, our favor with God. But Jesus explains how God's favor is given and received. Grace is based on love and love alone. It begins with God's love for us, and continues with our love for him and for others.

HYMN #72 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

SIXTH READING Jeremiah 29:11

Linda Roberts

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, new every morning ... Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.

CHORAL ANTHEM "The Gift of Love"

Sanctuary Choir

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*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

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost;
O praise Him, O praise Him; Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

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.

*CLOSING HYMN "Love Lifted Me"

*CLOSING PRAYER

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be With You"

*God be with you till we meet again, by his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

David E. Dillard



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 our Christian faith and about our 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
David E. Dillard, Director of Music Ministries
Stephanie Dunn, Youth Director
Mary Thompson, Christian Ed Coordinator

Levena Hemmle, Office Manager
Tom Francis, Custodian
Nursery Attendants: Stephanie Phillips, Megan Bennett, and Charlotte Culpepper

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

February 19, 2012
11:00 AM



***"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies
never come to an end; they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness."***

Lamentations 3:23