

First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia



CELEBRATION!

First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024

Welcome

The Reverend Dr. Baron Mullis

Opening Acclamation

Open our lips, O Lord,
And our mouths shall proclaim your praise!

***Song**

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

***Prayer (unison)**

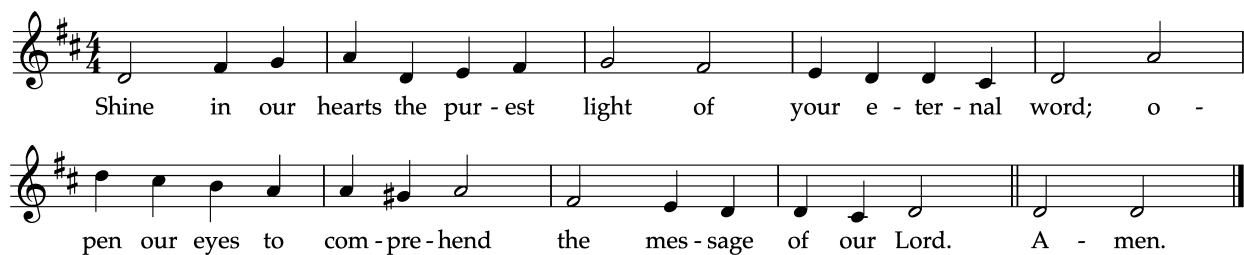
Lord God, your love is always reaching out to us. Wherever we go, you go with us. Help us to feel your presence walking alongside us throughout this season of Lent.

Lord, you tell us to love one another, but we do not always do what you ask of us. Forgive us for the ways we have hurt others and ourselves. Forgive us for ignoring you and our neighbors. Help us to be brave and kind every day of our lives. Guide us, step-by-step, on our journey of faith and hear our prayers for Jesus' sake, that we offer to you now in silence...

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination



Shine in our hearts the pur - est light of your e - ter - nal word; o -
pen our eyes to com - pre - hend the mes - sage of our Lord. A - men.

Reading the Word of God

Mark 1:9-15

Reagan & Wyatt Buzan

Seeing and Touching the Word

Karen Marston

Reflections

The Reverend Dr. Brian Blount

*Song

Come to the Table of Grace

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.

Come to the table of hope. Come to the table of hope.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of hope.

Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of joy.

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

adapted from the PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.

Offering (You may remain seated during the Doxology.)

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow, Praise God all crea - tures here be - low, Praise
God a - bove ye heav'n - ly host, Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Prayers of the People

The Reverend Laura Colee

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

The Lord's Supper

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Let us keep the feast!

Prayer after Communion (unison)

God, who takes care of each one of us, thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation; now send us out into the world to tell everyone about your love. Amen.

*Closing Song

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

"Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

"Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

Benediction and Going Forth

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the power of the Holy Spirit.



Our guest preacher this morning is the Reverend Dr. Brian K. Blount, President Emeritus of Union Presbyterian Seminary. Dr. Blount delivered this year's Schneider Lecture as part of our Conversations Worth Having series yesterday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 18, 2024

Lenten Donation Drive

During the season of Lent, the Missions Committee is sponsoring a drive to support Philly House, a shelter for men that provides temporary housing and comprehensive services to support transitions to long-term housing. The donation drive will run from February 18 through April 7.

Visit our [website](#) or scan the QR code for a list of needed items and Amazon Wishlist options.



Adult Christian Education Series with Dr. Heath Carter

On Sundays February 25, March 3, and March 10, Dr. Heath Carter, Professor of American Christianity at Princeton Theological Seminary, will address how questions about the future of U.S. democracy. Sessions will be held in the MacColl room beginning at 12:30 p.m. Sandwiches will be provided. Remote attendance will be available via Zoom for those who are not able to attend in-person. Visit our [website](#) to register or call the church office (215-567-0532) to receive the Zoom link. (Those attending in person do not need to register!)

Online Lenten Bible Study

The Adult Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a four-week Lenten Bible study on Wednesdays, February 28 through March 20, from 12:15-12:45 p.m.. The series will be held exclusively online, via Zoom. Led by Dr. Mullis and Rev. Colee, the study will be based on the Gospel of Mark, from which this year's Easter Sunday scripture will be taken. Over four weeks, we will look at key passages that prepare us for Holy Week. Visit our [website](#) to register, or call the church office (215-567-0532).

3 Ways to GIVE ONLINE

Scan the QR code



Text FPCPHILA to 73256
using your mobile device, followed
by your contribution amount.

FPCPHILA \$100

This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.



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