



The **FIRST**
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
in PHILADELPHIA

est. 1698

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

PRELUDE

Adagio, from Symphony no. 3

Louis Vierne

INTROIT

Plainsong

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

—*Psalm 27:8-9*

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Laura Colee

*HYMN 488

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

*OPENING SENTENCES

The Reverend Dr. Baron Mullis

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

For the Lord did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD.

May your hearts live forever!

adapted from Psalm 22:23-26

*PRAYER OF ADORATION



WELCOME

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, your Son Jesus came into the world to preach good news to the poor and release to the captive; to heal the sick and bind up the brokenhearted; to dine with outcasts and to forgive sinners. We desire to follow Jesus' example, but sometimes it feels like the Gospel demands too much of us. The truth is that we prefer our comfort and security over your transformation and justice. Like the disciples, we have all denied the boundary-crossing ministry of Jesus at some point in order to protect our own skin. Forgive us for the times when we have kept silent when we should have spoken up. Forgive us for when we have prioritized the status quo over the cries of our vulnerable neighbors. Forgive us for all the small and significant ways that we allow injustice to thrive. Strengthen our spirits and give us courage to speak your disruptive truth to power, even now, as we continue to pray...

KYRIE (573) (*Choir and Congregation*)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Believe the promise of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ANTHEM

Vertue

Judith Weir

Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright, the bridal of the earth and sky; the dew shall weep thy fall to-night, for thou must die.

Sweet rose, whose hue angry and brave bids the rash gazer wipe his eye; thy root is ever in its grave, and thou must die.

Sweet spring, full of sweet days and roses, a box where sweets compacted lie; my music shows ye have your closes, and all must die.

Only a sweet and virtuous soul, like seasoned timber, never gives; but though the whole world turn to coal, then chiefly lives.

—*George Herbert (1593-1633)*

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| OLD TESTAMENT LESSON | Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 | (p. 12) |
| EPISTLE LESSON | Romans 4:13-24 | (p. 151) |
| NEW TESTAMENT LESSON | Mark 8:31-38 | (p. 43) |

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI

PICARDY

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to God the Spirit, ever three and ever one; as it was in the beginning, now and ever more shall be.

SERMON**It Is Necessary**

Rev. Colee

“Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again.”

Mark 8:31

HYMN 83*O Love, How Deep**

DEO GRACIAS

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love.

—excerpted from The Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language Text

CALL TO OFFERING

*You may bring your offering forward during the offertory, or place it in the plates after the service.
You may also give online; information is available on the card in the pew rack.*

OFFERTORY**O Lord God**

Percy C. Buck

O Lord God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do: mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Percy C. Buck

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**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.

HYMN 84*In the Cross of Christ I Glory**

RATHBUN

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Benediction for Lent 2

Donald Nally

Amen. Of you my heart has spoken. Seek his face.

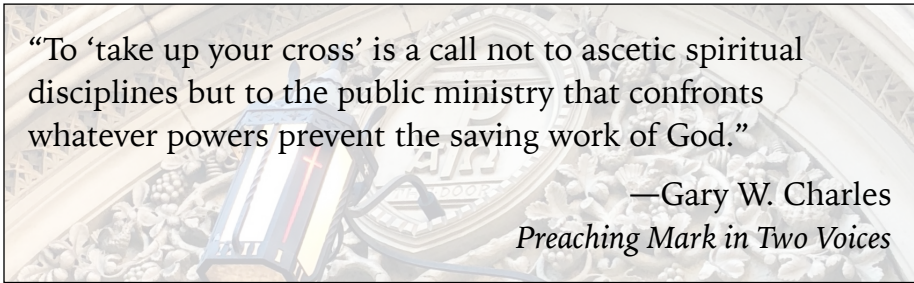
POSTLUDE

Zion's Tuba

Franklin D. Ashdown

(Quoting the hymn-tune *Leoni*)

* * *



“To ‘take up your cross’ is a call not to ascetic spiritual disciplines but to the public ministry that confronts whatever powers prevent the saving work of God.”

—Gary W. Charles

Preaching Mark in Two Voices

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SERIES - SUNDAYS THROUGH MARCH 10

Beginning today, Dr. Heath Carter, Professor of American Christianity at Princeton Theological Seminary, will address how questions about the future of U.S. democracy have come to the fore of public life in recent years. Sessions will be held in the MacColl room beginning at 12:30 p.m. Sandwiches will be provided.

ONLINE LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - WEDNESDAYS THROUGH MARCH 20

A four-week Lenten Bible study will be held on Wednesdays exclusively online, via Zoom, from 12:15-12:45 p.m. Led by Dr. Mullis and Rev. Colee, we will look at key passages from the Gospel of Mark that prepare us for Holy Week. *You must register to receive the Zoom link!* Visit our website to register, or call the church office (215-567-0532).

TWENTIES & THIRTIES VOLUNTEER EVENT

Join us as a group of T&Ts volunteer with Books Through Bars on Saturday, March 2 at 1:30 p.m. We will be filling requests for reading materials for incarcerated individuals in Pennsylvania and throughout the tri-state area. Please email Laura Colee (youngadults@fpcphila.org) if you'd like to join us!

DINNER WITH HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENTS - SUNDAY, MARCH 3

The church will be hosting a dinner next Sunday at 5 p.m. in Old Buttonwood Hall to welcome students from Howard University who are traveling from Washington, D.C. to spend their spring break engaged in volunteer work around the city of Philadelphia. All are welcome to join us! Please RSVP by February 26, by emailing or calling the church office (office@fpcphila.org; 215-567-0532).

Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter at fpcphila.org/subscribe.

Lenten Donation Drive

February 18 - April 7

supporting

PHILLY  **HOUSE**



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.

Items to donate are listed below. Donations can be dropped off in designated locations at the church. Items may also be purchased online from the Amazon Wishlist. (Amazon Wishlist items will be shipped directly to Philly House.) Scan the QR code for more information.

ITEMS TO DONATE

- New combs for men
- New hair picks for men
- New men's T-shirts (all sizes)
- Men's sneakers (all sizes)
- Men's adjustable canvas belts (all sizes)
- Men's boxer underwear and stretch boxer briefs (all sizes)
- Down alternative pillows
- Men's loose fit shorts (all sizes)
- Socks (all sizes)
- Lightweight waterproof backpacks

