

**1ST Sunday of Lent
February 21 , 2021
1st Presbyterian of Rockaway**

Join Zoom Worship

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7423478806?pwd=MTdaSjRFSVZ3RIF5bW9sMGpqYVhXQT09>

Meeting ID: 742 347 8806

Passcode: 6562894

One tap mobile

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“The Old Rugged Cross”

by George Bennard
Arr. By Myra Schubert

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of the covenant: God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions.

God remembers us according to God’s own steadfast love!

The God of our salvation teaches us right paths and leads us in truth.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness; we put our trust in God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, you have made covenant with us and with every living creature. We give thanks for the sign of the rainbow, for it reminds you and us of your promise; that the flood of destruction will not be the last word. We thank you, too, for the waters of baptism, the sign that we are raised as children of the covenant. We thank you for the sign of the dove, the promise of your Holy Spirit. With the whole creation, we give you all glory and honor. In the name of Christ our Lord we pray.

Amen.

HYMN 213

IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY

**In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o’er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o’ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy;
Never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross re sanctified,
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.**

**In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

God alone is righteous; God alone is perfect; God alone is judge. Yet this holy, righteous God comes to us in love, to save us. Rejoicing in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We choose secrecy over openness, we choose pride over humility, we choose darkness over light. Forgive us when we are tempted to follow paths and actions other than those you set before us.

Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil in its many disguises, and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. In covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us always a refuge of grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

As Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood onto dry ground, so in baptismal waters we are brought from death into new life in Christ. Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, forgives us and reconciles us and all things in heaven and on earth.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, in rushing waters and in dry wilderness, in every season and circumstance, we need your sustaining word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, proclaim the good news among us today so that we may repent and believe and see anew how the time is fulfilled and the kingdom has come near; in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

GEN. 9:8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the

earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Ps. 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

⁸Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

1 PETER 3:18-22

¹⁸For Christ also suffered^[a] for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you^[b] to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for^[c] a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

SERMON

LIVING UNDER THE RAINBOW

HYMN 315

IN THE MIDST OF NEW DIMENSIONS

**In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?**

REFRAIN

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,
Now and ever, now and evermore.**

**As we stand, a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.**

REFRAIN

**Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix Spirit resurrect the church again.**

REFRAIN

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Order of Saint Columba at Patmos Abbey)
We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.**

**We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,
and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,
and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.
Amen**

OFFERING – MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 39

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not..
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

REFRAIN

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy Faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

REFRAIN

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

REFRAIN

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

by Lani Smith

Tune: Aberystwyth

By Joseph Parry

EVENING PRAYER

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

Feb. 24 - Mar. 31, 2021

You are invited to participate in Evening Prayer on Wednesdays during Lent. We will be praying using lectio divina and will be praying selected psalms. Lectio divina is an ancient form of prayer using reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation. This form of prayer can be done in community or as a personal discipline. If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Nancy at youngnancy501@gmail.com.

Time: Feb 24, 2021 07:00 PM Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81068339870?pwd=bTIIMHg4cnVUbTVvWXIVUDRyVUV5dz09>

Meeting ID: 810 6833 9870

Passcode: 311106

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- Go to our web page (fpcrockaway.org), scroll down to “donate” and give electronically
- Mail your donation to:
1st Presbyterian of Rockaway
35 Church St.
Rockaway, NJ 07886

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SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: PSALMS

Time: 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86468468691?pwd=Z3ZNNzJabHdKaFNOTjhrOEVBYXlqdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6846 8691

Passcode: 317165

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TUESDAY MORNING STUDY

Everything Is Spiritual: Finding Your Way in a Turbulent World
by Rob Bell

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81660964669?pwd=TEVQNTYwN3FuWHVpV0pFa2xySkRQUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 6096 4669

Passcode: 666503

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If you have not already done so – please send your pledge to the church as soon as possible.

First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway
35 Church Street
Rockaway, NJ 07866

