

**4th Sunday of Lent
March 14, 2021
1st Presbyterian of Rockaway**

Join Zoom Worship

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7423478806?pwd=MTdaSjRFSVZ3RlF5bW9sMGpqYVhXQT09>

Meeting ID: 742 347 8806

Passcode: 6562894

One tap mobile

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son
that whoever believes in him should not perish
but have eternal life.

**Let those who know they are redeemed celebrate it!
Those who have been reclaimed from deep trouble!**

Though we were as good as dead,
God made us alive with the grace of Christ
through whom we are rescued and healed.

**O give thanks to God for such unswerving love,
for such wonderful deeds for the children of earth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Too often, too easily, our eyes are drawn down, God, to the suffering of victims
and the pain of perpetrators, to the wounds we inflict on others and the wounds
we inflict on ourselves. We need to see these things and pray,

But, we also need our eyes to be lifted, God, to the signs of your life among us,
to the touch of your healing on our souls, to the cross that casts its liberating
shadow across all human affairs.

We need our eyes to be lifted, God, so our hearts may be filled with faith and
hope and love Amen.

HYMN 610

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!**

**The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,
Sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.**

**Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;
The mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.**

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.**

**To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sins together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, we confess that we are an impatient and selfish people.
When you offer us the promise of a new future, we complain that you don't get there fast enough. When you provide for our needs, we complain that it isn't enough. And when our bad attitudes and negative outlooks cause us to stumble, we blame you.**

Holy God, forgive our sinful ways. Teach us to be patient. Instruct us to be grateful. Guide us to be responsible and humble. As we turn ourselves around and look to the cross, let us experience your grace and your gift of new life. In the name of Christ our Savior, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that through him the world might be saved. Though we were dead through our sins, in great mercy, God has spoken a word of healing and made us alive together with Christ.
Sisters and Brothers, our sins are forgiven; be at peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As we are gathered here today, we ask you, our living God, to shower onto us your wisdom and knowledge. We pray that as we listen to your word, we may have the ability to clearly see what God has called us to do. We seek to live to fulfill your purpose so that we can see your kingdom. Illuminate our eyes and reveal to us your glory. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NUMBERS 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that

many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

² **Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble**

³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷ **Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;**

¹⁸ they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹ **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;**

²⁰ he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

²¹ **Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.**

²² And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

2 You were dead through the trespasses and sins ² in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³ All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

SERMON

PATIENCE

HYMN 475

COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (adapted from Ephesians 2)

By his mighty power God raised from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ
and seated him at his right hand in heaven; far above all rule and authority,
power and dominion, and every title that can be given,
not only in the present age but also in the age to come.

God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over
everything for the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills
everything everywhere and always.

MINUTE FOR MISSION LILLIAN BLAIR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 634 TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory; great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory: great things he has done!

Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory: great things he has done!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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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, simply join us using the Zoom link below. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Nancy at yougnancy501@gmail.com.

Time: March 3, 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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- 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=Z3ZNNzJabHdKaFN0TjhrOEVBYXlqdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6846 8691

Passcode: 31716

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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=TEVQNTYwN3FuWHVBV0pFa2xySkRQUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 6096 4669

Passcode: 666503