

**3rd Sunday of Lent
March 7, 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

+19292056099,,7423478806#,,,,*6562894# US (New York)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”

by Garret Parked

Tune: St. Flavian

Adapted from John Day’s English Psalter, 1562

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, you are the one who calls us into community with each other to love and work, to support and heal.

You are the one who calls us into community with all people; to bring justice and hope, freedom and truth.

You are the one who calls us into community with the whole creation; to live in harmony, to cherish and renew.

Let us worship the God who makes us one.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, whose work we see in the creation of the universe, help us this hour to look and to listen for your voice in this place. Connect our temporary praise to your timeless rhythms, your ageless melodies, your everlasting joyful noise.

Guide us now to focus upon you, knowing that in you, our distractions become new possibilities for action.

Breathe life into our singing, our praying, our speaking, our listening, our touching, that all these activities might become more than they are. In our worship we reach out to you, O God, knowing that you have already enfolded us in Your arms. In Jesus, we pray. Amen.

HYMN 411

GOD IS HERE TODAY (Sing twice)

God is here today; as certain as the air I breathe,

As certain as the morning sun that rises,

As certain when I sing you’ll hear my voice.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We come together before God, knowing we have not lived into the grace we have from God. We are confident that God's grace and mercy are more than we can imagine; so we come before God with our confession, looking for God's grace to shower down upon us. Let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (St. Ambrose of Milan (AD 339-397).

O Lord, who has mercy upon all, take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of thy Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore Thee, a heart to delight in Thee, to follow and enjoy Thee, for Christ's sake. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: our sins are forgiven.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty God, you spoke to your people in the pillar of cloud as they walked together in the wilderness. Speak to us through your Word today, that we may hear you calling us out of the wilderness places in our lives and into new places you have promised to show us. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

EXODUS 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

¹⁸When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a

distance, ¹⁹and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.” ²⁰Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.”

PSALM 19

¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

² **Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

³ There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

⁴ **yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**

⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶ **Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.**

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸ **the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

⁹ the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² **But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.**

¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” (*Isa. 29:14*)

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the

strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

SERMON

A FOOLISH LIFE

HYMN 450

BE THOU MY VISION

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 500 BE KNOWN TO US IN BREAKING BREAD

**Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;
Savior, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart.**

**Here share with us, in love divine, your body and your blood,
That living bread, that heavenly wine be our immortal food.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We would be living ordinary lives unless the bread, unless the cup, is poured into our lives: and the mystery of grace takes place.

We come to this meal, not because we fully understand, but because we need to reach out and receive the life that is offered to us through Jesus Christ, the host of this meal.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away in denial, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You made us your covenant people, and your ways are just and true.

Most Holy & Gracious God, as we journey with Jesus toward the Lenten cross, we pray not only for ourselves, but for others—known and unknown, named & unnamed—from whose lives health or happiness has fled. Bring them your comfort and peace that surpasses understanding.

Bless our world, O Lord, and by your Spirit let your harmony and justice prevail. Bless our church, uniting us in the truth of your Word and empowering us in ministry to the world. Bless our family and friends, watching over and providing peace to them. Bless all who are suffering by embracing them in your loving arms. Bless each person here this morning, keeping us all faithful to you.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this cup and joyfully celebrate Christ's dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION
COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

HYMN 265 JESUS SHALL REIGN WHERE'ER THE SUN
Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;
His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoners leap to loose their chains;
The weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "I Need Thee Every Hour" by Janet Vogt
Tune: Need by Robert Lowry

+++++

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

+++++

GIVING TO 1ST PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY

- 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

+++++



TO SUPPORT PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND THEIR WORK IN TEXAS AND OTHER STATES AFFECTED BY THE WINTER STORMS:

Go to: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/winter-storms>
 To support this response, designate gifts for [OG100000, write "Winter Storms" in the notes section of the online giving form or on the memo line of a check.](#)

+++++

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: PSALMS

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86468468691?pwd=Z3ZNNzJabHdKaFN0TjhrOEVBVXlqdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6846 8691

Passcode: 317165

+++++

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=TEVQNTYwN3FuWHV0pFa2xySkRQUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 6096 4669

Passcode: 666503