



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2, 2008

Eleven o'clock

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

THE GATHERING

The service of worship begins with the prelude; quiet is requested as you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship. In the spirit of Christian fellowship, we invite you to wear a name tag which is available from the greeters. As a community that prays with and for one another, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by using the blue cards available from the ushers and in the welcome pad folders. Those parts of the Service of Worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in bold type.

**Stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

Psalm Prelude

Craig Phillips

* HYMN 454

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Liebster Jesu

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are blind to many things.

People: **Lord, cure our blindness.**

Leader: The light of God shines for us today.

People: **Lord, pour that light on us.**

Leader: Come, worship God who forgives and heals your blindness.

People: **Open our eyes, O Lord, that we might see opportunities to serve you.**

INTROIT

Thomas Ravenscroft

Remember God's goodness, O thou man, O thou man,

Remember God's goodness and his promise made!

Remember God's goodness, How he sent his Son, doubtless

Our sins for to redress, Be not afraid.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please use the welcome pad in the blue folder at the end of the pew. Record your presence. Pass it back, noticing who is worshiping with you. When the pad has been returned, please tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate.)

MINUTE FOR CREATIVITY

Yvonne Crichton

MINUTE FOR OUTREACH

Barbara Ryder

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you penetrate the darkness of the world with your love, enlightening us in ways that enable us to see the world and our neighbors as you see them. We confess, however, that there are times when we choose to reject the gift of your insight, preferring to 'close our eyes' to the pain and suffering that are daily experiences for so many people. When selfishness blinds us to the needs of others, forgive us. When our insensitivity blinds us to the hurt we cause others, forgive us. When our pride blinds us to our own faults, forgive us. Jesus, Light of the world, help us to walk in your light so that goodness, righteousness, and truth are made visible and reflect your love and your mercy in and through all we say and do. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

KYRIE Hymnal No. 565

Lord, Have Mercy

Weaver

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: The God who calls us is the God who created us; the God who formed us is the God who forgives us. We are God's new creation. Believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

* EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Leader: Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to us, and God will be glorified.

People: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(Exchange Signs of Reconciliation and the Peace of Christ with your neighbor - e.g., *"The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you."*

Response - *"And also with you."*)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

+ Children and Youth leave for their classes +

* HYMN 172 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need *Resignation*

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON 1 Samuel 16:6-13

SECOND LESSON John 9:1-38

SERMON "Blinded By Knowledge" Rev. Richard S. Hong

* NICENE CREED

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERTORY Kyrie (Mass, op. 130) *Joseph Jongen*

Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy

Christe eleison

Christ have mercy

Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy

* THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Eternal and ever-living God...

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name.

SANCTUS 581 (choir and congregation)

Joseph Roff

Pastor: Holy God, in Your mercy . . .

. . . Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor: We take this bread and wine and joyfully celebrate this Holy Sacrament. . . . And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

*People: 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 SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.—Revelation 3:20

All who trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to participate in this celebration.

BREAD: To be taken individually, symbolic of your personal commitment to God through Jesus Christ.

CUP: Please wait until all are served, symbolic of your corporate belonging together in the body of Christ. Grape juice is the fruit of the vine used in our celebration of the sacrament.

ANTHEM

The Lamb

John Tavener

*Little lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee,
Gave thee life, and bade thee feed By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight, Softest clothing, wooly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice, Making all the vales rejoice?
Little lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?*

*Little lamb, I'll tell thee; Little lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name, For He calls Himself a lamb,
He is meek, and He is mild, He became a little child;
I a child, and Thee a Lamb, We are called by His Name.
Little lamb, God bless thee! Little lamb, God bless thee!*

WILLIAM BLAKE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE SENDING OUT

* **HYMN 285** God, You Spin the Whirling Planets *Austrian Hymn*

* **BENEDICTION**

* **CHORAL AMEN**

POSTLUDE

Chorale

Joseph Jongen

(Our worship ends with the conclusion of the Postlude. It is the custom of our church to remain seated. Those who wish to leave may do so.)

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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Samuel 16:6-13 (NRSV)

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

John 9:1-38 (NRSV)

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came

back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

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