

First Presbyterian Church of Niles Morning Worship

10:00 A.M.

March 10, 2024

(* = stand if you are able)

PRELUDE

REFLECTION TEXT

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Change My Heart, O God* **CHANGE MY HEART**
Saxophone

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

O give thanks to the Lord,
who is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.
Let us praise God!

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN	<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	BEECHER
--------------	---	---------

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found.
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints. We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor. We protest the problems of our world, but we do not actively work to address them. Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace. Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways that we may know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT AND PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Responsive)

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE 437 *You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy* WAYFARING STRANGER
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:14-21

SPECIAL MUSIC

Covenant Prayer

Marrolli

Creator, we belong to you, and you dwell within our hearts. Though the road be rough, we will follow you with the strength your grace imparts. Though we be brought high, though we be brought low, though we journey far from home, let us always seek to grow in love, no matter where we roam. Now let us reach out with loving hands to accept, affirm, embrace every child of God throughout the world and shower them with grace. And let us reach out with grateful hearts and praise our God above through our acts of light and justice as we warm the world with love. Creator, let us understand that our covenant with you is a covenant with humankind to honor and pursue the road of Christ, through the rocky fields, to the broken and unshod. Let us heal with love, for each soul we meet is a precious Child of God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 23

MESSAGE “This is God’s Table Where Everyone is Welcome!”

Rev. Christopher Mergener

***HYMN**

My Shepherd Is the Living God

FOREST GREEN

My shepherd is the living God, I therefore nothing need;
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams you settle me to feed.
You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways,
And lead me for your mercy’s sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;
A word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others come and go—
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (In Unison)

God’s reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd’s life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God’s love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God’s reconciling work.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Offertory

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Arr. Angerman

***DOXOLOGY**

A Lenten Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God throughout these forty days. Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spirit who imparts God’s love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PREPARATION FOR PRAYERS

#789 (Vs. 2)

Jesus, Savior, Lord, Now to You I Come

SARANAM

Refrain: Jesus, Savior, Lord, now to you I come. Saranam, saranam, saranam.
You’re my rock, my refuge, my heavenly home. Saranam, saranam, saranam.

In your heart give me a hiding place, and beneath your wings let me find sheltering grace. O let me see the sunshine of your face. Saranam, saranam saranam.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Responsive: Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (In Unison)

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 295** (Vs. 1, 2, 4) *Go to the World!* SINE NOMINE

Go to the World! Go into all the earth. Go preach the cross where Christ renews life’s worth, Baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go to the world! Go into every place. Go live the word of God’s redeeming grace. Go seek God’s presence in each time and space. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am with you till the age shall end, when all the hosts of glory cry “Amen!” Alleluia! Alleluia!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

All music is reproduced under permission from ccli.com License #11146543.

~~~~~