



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 3, 2013

Eleven o'clock

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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## 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.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRELUDE**      Three Lenten Preludes from Orgelbüchlein      Bach

\* **HYMN 281**      Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah      Cwm Rhondda

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Psalm 63:1-5):

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you

**People: My soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you**

Leader: I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your  
power and glory

**People: Your steadfast love is better than life; my lips will praise you**

Leader: I will lift up my hands and call on your name

**People: In you my soul is satisfied**

**INTROIT**      Hal Hopson

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.      ISAIAH 55:6

## 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 OUTREACH

*Mercedes Zuluaga*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in this season of Lent, a season of penitence, we examine our lives and realize how we have failed to reach the potential you have in mind for us. Yet your mercy is so great that you keep giving us chances to cultivate our identity as people shaped by your thoughts and your ways. Forgive us, O God, when we shape our lives other than by the way, the truth and the life of Jesus Christ. Help us to trust that you will patiently and graciously provide ways for us to turn our lives around so that we might daily bear the fruits of repentance. Merciful and gracious God, strengthen us with your Spirit so that we willingly turn towards you, thinking your thoughts and following your way. Help us to bring forth fruits worthy of our calling as followers of Jesus Christ. This we pray in his name.

## PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

## KYRIE Hymnal No. 565

*Weaver*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, believe and proclaim the Good News:  
in Jesus Christ, love breaks through hatred, hope breaks  
through despair, life breaks through death.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free. Thanks  
be to God! Amen.

## \* 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."*)

*+ Children and Youth may leave for their classes. +*

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-9

#### \* HYMN 298

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*In Babilone*

#### SECOND LESSON

Luke 13:1-9

#### SERMON

"For What Purpose?" 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                      Go Not Far from Me, O God                      Zingarelli

*Go not far from me, O God; Cast me not away in the time of age; Forsake me not when my strength faileth me. O let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, that I may sing Thy glory and honor all the day long.*

\* 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.

**COMMUNION**

Precious Lord

arr. John Carter

*The text can be found at No. 404 in the hymnal*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## THE SENDING OUT

\* HYMN 84

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Rathbun

\* BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

Nimrod (from “Enigma Variations”)

Edward Elgar

*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

Isaiah 55:1-9 (NRSV)

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 13:1-9 (NRSV)

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this

way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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