

**Gilead Presbyterian Church**  
**March 14, 2021 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, Year B**

Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, ability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

WELCOME

OPENING MUSIC

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"  
Mary Temple, organ

by Adoniram J. Gordon  
arr. by Sharon Elery Rogers

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Psalms 25:1, 4-6

Leader: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**People: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

Leader: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation.

**People: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

**BLUE HYMNAL #485**

**"To God Be the Glory"**

**1. To God be the glory, great things He hath 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.**

**Refrain: 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 hath done!**

**2. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath 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.**

**Refrain: 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 hath done!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER, **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of compassion and mercy, look with favor upon us as we confess our sins.**

**Our faith is weak in the face of crisis. Our hope collapses when we are threatened or maligned. We seek our own safety and abandon those you love.**

**We trust in objects we can create and control. We speak much and risk little. But you, O God, have given your promise that you will never forsake us. Forgive our failure to take you at your word. We pray in the name of the one who is the Word, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER, ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† THE OFFERING, DOXOLOGY

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

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART “The Brazen Serpent Monument”



SCRIPTURE READING

Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> 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.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Chosen One be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in the Chosen One may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, so that everyone who believes may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God sent the Only Begotten into the world not to condemn the world, but that through the Only Begotten the world might be saved. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in the Only Begotten avoids judgement, but whoever doesn't believe is judged already for not believing in the name of the Only Begotten One of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

SERMON

*Anti-Venom*

Rev. Martin McGeachy

MEDITATION

“What Wondrous Love Is This”  
Juergen Tempel, cellist

American Folk Hymn

THE ORDINATION OF OFFICERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

**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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**BLUE HYMNAL #371**

**“Lift High the Cross”**

**Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

**1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (Refrain)**

**3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
Your death has brought us life eternally. (Refrain)**

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

“O Love, That Will Not Let Me Go”

Tune: “St. Margaret” by

Albert L. Peace; arr. by Sharon Elery Rogers

Mary Temple, organ

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ▶ If you would like a hymnal for use at home, please contact Pastor Martin.
- ▶ Zoom Prayer, each Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. The link is in the weekly bulletin email.
- ▶ Zoom Lenten Devotional Study each Thursday during Lent at 7:30 p.m. The link is in the weekly bulletin email, with Daily Scripture Devotions for Lent.

*Thank you to our videographer this morning, Stephanie Gould.*

† We accept offerings through the “Online Giving” link on our website, [www.gileadchurch.org](http://www.gileadchurch.org), or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.

### **GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Martin McGeachy, Pastor  
Mary Temple, Music Director  
Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent

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[www.gileadchurch.org](http://www.gileadchurch.org)

