

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Gilead Presbyterian Church  
March 27, 2022

## WELCOME

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.

OPENING MUSIC                      "Amazing Grace"                      Virginia Harmony 1831  
Penny Cameron, piano; Mary Temple, organ      arr. by Albin C. Whitworth

OPENING SCRIPTURE                      Psalm 32:6-7, 11

Leader: God, let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

**People: You are a hiding place for us; you preserve us from trouble;  
you surround us with glad cries of deliverance.**

Leader: Be glad in Our Maker and rejoice, O righteous!

**People: Shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

**\*GRAY HYMNAL #396      "Bring Back the Springtime"**

**1. When in the spring the flow'rs Are blooming bright and fair  
After the gray of winter's gone**

**Once again the lark begins its tuning, Back in the meadows of my home**

**Chorus: Lord, to my heart bring back the springtime**

**Take away the cold and dark of sin**

**O return to me, sweet Holy Spirit**

**May I warm and tender be again**

**2. Lord make me like that stream That flows so cool and clear  
Down from the mountains high above**

**I will tell the world that wondrous story Of the streams that flowed from Calvary.**

**Chorus: Lord, to my heart bring back the springtime**

**Take away the cold and dark of sin**

**O return to me, sweet Holy Spirit**

**May I warm and tender be again**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER

#### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander its rich resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we turn inward and pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us commandments that lead to flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you, that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

#### SILENT PRAYER

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### **\*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

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with

him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'" *Luke 15:11-32*

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, to whom God reconciled us through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ the world was reconciled to God, and by God's will, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting this message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making the Divine appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

SERMON "Welcome to the Embassy" Rev. Martin McGeachy

MEDITATION "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" by Charles H. Gabriel  
Mary Temple, organ

**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.**

**\*GRAY HYMNAL #452 "Make Me a Blessing"**

**1. Out in the highways and byways of life, Many are weary and sad;  
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife, Making the sorrowing glad.**

**Refrain: Make me a blessing, Make me a blessing.  
Out of my life may Jesus shine;  
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray.  
Make me a blessing to someone today.**

**2. Tell the sweet story of Christ and his love, Tell of his pow'r to forgive;  
Others will trust him if only you prove True, ev'ry moment you live.**

**Refrain: Make me a blessing, Make me a blessing.  
Out of my life may Jesus shine;  
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray.  
Make me a blessing to someone today.**

**3. Give as 'twas given to you in your need, Love as the Master loved you;  
Be to the helpless a helper indeed, Unto your mission be true.**

***Refrain: Make me a blessing, Make me a blessing.  
Out of my life may Jesus shine;  
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray.  
Make me a blessing to someone today.***

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                    “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”                    by Anthony J. Showalter  
Penny Cameron, piano; Mary Temple, organ                    arr. by Albin C. Whitworth

*\*Please stand, if you are able.*

*The flowers this morning are donated by the family of  
Elaine Krueger, in her loving memory.*

*Thank you to our Lay Reader today, José Ojeda,  
and our videographer, Stephanie Gould.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ▶ Weekly Wednesday 8:30 a.m. Zoom Prayer. The link is in the bulletin email.
- ▶ Zoom Bible Study, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. The link is in the bulletin email.
- ▶ Gilead Bell Chimes rehearse after worship today.
- ▶ The congregation is called to meet on Zoom and in worship at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 10 after worship, for a brief meeting to elect officers.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is sending aid to Ukraine and surrounding countries. Gifts can be [made online](#), by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAUKR to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line. Mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

† *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)



# 396 Bring Back the Springtime

*The winter is past . . . flowers appear on the earth. Song. 2:11-12*

1. When in the spring the flow'rs are bloom-ing bright and fair Aft - er the  
2. Lord, make me like that stream that flows so cool and clear Down from the

gray of win - ter's gone, Once a - gain the lark be - gins its  
mountains high a - bove; I will tell the world that won-drous

tun - ing Back in the mead-ows of my home.  
sto - ry Of the streams that flowed from Cal - va - ry.

*Refrain*

Lord, to my heart bring back the spring - time, Take a - way the

cold and dark of sin; O re - turn to me, sweet Ho - ly

Spir - it, May I warm and ten - der be a - gain.

TEXT and MUSIC: Kurt Kaiser

SPRINGTIME  
Irregular meter

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# 452 Make Me a Blessing

*Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted. Prov. 11:11*

1. Out in the high-ways and by-ways of life, Man-y are wea-ry and sad;  
2. Tell the sweet sto-ry of Christ and His love, Tell of His pow'r to for-give;  
3. Give as 'twas giv-en to you in your need, Love as the Mas-ter loved you;

are wea-ry and sad;  
His pow'r to for-give;  
the Mas-ter loved you;  
Car - ry the sun-shine where darkness is rife, Mak - ing the sor-row-ing glad.  
Oth - ers will trust Him if on - ly you prove True, ev - ery mo-ment you live.  
Be to the help - less a help - er in - deed, Un - to your mis-sion be true.

*Refrain*

Make me a bless - ing, make me a bless - ing, Out of my

life may Je - sus shine; Make me a bless - ing, O Sav - ior,  
out of my life

TEXT: Ira B. Wilson  
MUSIC: George S. Schuler

SCHULER  
10.7.10.7. with Refrain

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