



“Reversal and Restoration: Loving God and Neighbor”

1st Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

If you have an email address and want to be on POP’s weekly announcement list, please let the church office know. You can find worship each week at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/worship/>.

If you would like to support the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship, community outreach, and other ministries, you can give any amount by cash, check, online, through the Give+ app by Vanco, or by sending a text to 833-394-7887 (text your dollar amount and follow the prompts). Thank you for your generosity.

ORDER OF SERVICE *The assembly speaks the bold verses*

Preparing for Worship

Begin worship with a moment of silence.

Take this time to set up your worship space. Your space will be unique to who you are and what is meaningful to you. Ultimately, you are preparing space that helps you slow down and connect with God through Jesus.

You are invited to light a candle. We light candles in worship to signify the presence of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, with us.

Take a few deep breaths. Breathe in the breath of God through the Holy Spirit.

Call to Worship

(inspired by Genesis 22: 1-14; Micah 6:8; Deuteronomy 6:5)

What does the Lord require of you?

**To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

What does God command of us?

**To love God with all our heart,
and all our soul,
and all our mind,
and all our strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

**But to presence, and abundance,
and grace in our struggle.**

Let us worship the God who believes in us,
and trusts in us, and abides with us.

**Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,
but will be beside us every step of the way.**

Music *"This Is Us"* - Christian Mclvor

Verse 1 - Solo

I might not know the situation you're in
And we might not share the same color or shade of skin
But in this space we've got nothing to hide
'Cause we're digging deeper, and looking further inside

Verse 2 - Solo

Some of us are constantly oppressed
Out there in the world, every single day is a test
But here, black, white, brown, or LGBTQ
I'm free to be me and you can be fully you

Refrain - All Sing

**We will look to find God in everything that we see,
Connected in creation's unity
We will work for peace and fight for all that's just
We'll stand for love, this is us
We'll stand for love, this is us**

Verse 3 - Solo

We may have come here from nations far away
And all of us have struggled in our own way
But here, we break bread together and give what we're able
And there's a place for everyone at the table

Refrain - All Sing

Bridge - Solo

But we all carry something in common, that's
Brought us together on this day
We're all just trying to live and learn as
Faithful followers of the Way...

Refrain - All Sing

A Time of Lament

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:35-39). God's grace in Christ frees us for the difficult work of recognizing and lamenting how we have hurt and broken relationships with migrants, refugees, people of color, Indigenous people, and with people we don't understand or make us uncomfortable.

We are all part of one body in Christ, called to act with equity, fairness, and justice. God's saving love creates grace-filled spaces within us and within our relationships. God's saving love calls and leads us toward rooting out the racism that continues to infect the body.

Lord, Jesus Christ who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community, enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

We have blinded our eyes. In spite of the clear evidence of deeply embedded racism all around us, we have looked the other way. Too many have died. Too many have suffered. Too many have been locked out and cast aside. Too many indignities. Too many injustices. And still we looked the other way.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

We have hardened our hearts. Believing the lie that blacks have the same opportunities as whites, we could not allow ourselves to admit that our lives were shaped as much by racism as theirs—ours to benefit and theirs to harm. But it was and it is and it will continue to be. We have cared too little. We have grieved too little.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

We have silenced our tongues. Our voices have not been raised in prophetic rebuke and anger. Our feet have not stepped out for justice alongside those who have more courage than us. And in our silence we are accomplices to bigotry.

Forgive us, O Lord.

We have sinned against you and against those who suffer the evil of racism. Indifference has smothered our souls and snuffed out fleeting impulses for reconciliation. We ask for your forgiveness and we will appropriately seek their forgiveness.

Empower us, O Lord.

We need your strength to step beyond blindness, indifference and fear; to step toward those whom we have sinned against. We make no grandiose promises or plans today for we know how easily these can be made and forgotten. But this we know. We cannot be the same. And we will not.

Holy and merciful God, as your people we recommit ourselves to loving one another as you have loved us. Prepare us for this time of listening and discovery. We pray in the name of the one who has made us one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Greeting

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Compassionate God,

How easily you love those who look unlovable to us! How readily you welcome undesirables into your home! How slow we are to follow your example. Turn our hearts toward all who are considered outcast, shunned, and unclean so that we may love our neighbor without pity or apathy, for the sake of the one who became flesh to cleanse the world of sin and death forever, Jesus Christ our redeemer. **Amen.**

Music ***"Hidden With Christ"***

Chorus:

Hidden with Christ, hidden with Christ
All of us deep within God's heart
Hidden with Christ, hidden with Christ
All of us deep within God's heart

We are the witnesses of Gospel possibility
Loving the world, living in mystery

Chorus

Called from our wandering and claimed with our history
Voice of our home, whisper of mystery

Chorus

We are the carriers of hope for what the world can be
People of faith, bearing the mystery
Chorus

Gospel Reading *Luke 10:25-42*

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

MESSAGE

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

Music *"Christ Within"* - Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Christ within, before and behind

Christ beneath, above, beside

Christ ev'ry hour, ev'ry day, ev'ry night

Prayers of the People

(inspired by Luke 10: 25-37)

God of love, give us a deep love for you,
so that we can see the world as you see it,
feel the compassion you feel,
and be a people whose lives mediate your love to others.

So open our eyes that we might see what the Good Samaritan saw.
Grant us the insight to see the need in others,
the wisdom to know what to do, and the will to do it.

And so we pray for all those, who in many and various ways,
have been stripped, beaten and left for dead.

We pray for children who must grow up
in the most awful of circumstances,
especially for those starved of love, or food, or shelter or security.
May they receive the future you have planned for them.

Christ within, before and behind
Christ beneath, above, beside
Christ ev'ry hour, ev'ry day, ev'ry night

We pray for those we might cross the road to avoid.
Who have been excluded socially because of their race,
their financial status, or their history.
May the dignity that is theirs be restored to them.

We pray for those whose need we would rather not face up to,
because it requires action of us,
those who suffer atrocities because of war, unjust trade rules,
or oppressive governments.
May the world receive a true picture of their suffering
and the factors that cause it, that justice may be done.

Christ within, before and behind
Christ beneath, above, beside
Christ ev'ry hour, ev'ry day, ev'ry night

Open our eyes, that we might not cross the road from human need.
Give us a deep love for you,
that we might see your love at work in this world,
and that we might Go and do likewise.

We give you our hearts and minds and lift up all people, places and circumstances that make us
worried, anxious, frustrated and scared . . .

O loving God, you know the needs of all the world. By your Spirit, grant that we, having turned to you in prayer, now might turn to one another in peace, tend and keep what you have made, and love our neighbor with the love of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

O loving God, you know the needs of all the world. By your Spirit, grant that we, having turned to you in prayer, now might turn to one another in peace, tend and keep what you have made, and love our neighbor with the love of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**Christ within, before and behind
Christ beneath, above, beside
Christ ev'ry hour, ev'ry day, ev'ry night**

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Music "Something Beautiful For God" - Bryan Sirchio

Know this one thing above all else
We are loved, loved by God
Let this be how we see ourselves
As people loved, loved by God
And once we know the love of Christ
Feel God's healing in our lives
Loving service is how we give our love back to God

Chorus:

Today let us do something beautiful for God
Do something small, but do it with great love
Do what we can, where we are, with what we've got
Today let us do something beautiful for God

Everyone who we meet today
Is God's child, God's own child
May our lives help them hear God say
You are my child, God's own child
A smile can radiate God's love
Let them see the Christ in us
Let our lives be the cheerfulness of God in this world

Chorus

Jesus will visit us today
In disguise, in disguise
Poor and weak, Christ will come our way
Jesus Christ, in disguise
The lonely, poor, the victimized
Love for them is love for Christ
Love is water to quench the thirst of Christ on the cross
Chorus

Blessing

Go out into the world to serve God with love.
Be ready to laugh with delight at the good news God has to offer you.
Make room at your table for unexpected guests.
When the work of discipleship leaves you weary or frustrated,
rest in Christ's presence and listen to what he is saying.
And the blessing of God, Creator, ✠ Christ, and Holy Spirit,
go with you today and always. **Amen.**

Sending

Gathered by Grace.
Sent to Serve.
Thanks be to God!

Copyright

Call to Worship written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH. She blogs at <http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/> and posted on Re:worship website on October 18, 2020.

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A Time of Lament adapted from "Lamenting Racism," in "All Creation Sings: Evangelical Lutheran Worship Supplement," Published by Augsburg Fortress, 2020, and adapted from prayers written by John Bucki, SJ, and posted on the Social Justice Resource Center website, <https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/prayers/racism/> and reposted on Re:worship website, and adapted from "Racism: A Reflection and A Prayer," written by Mark Young, President, Denver Seminary. Posted on the Denver Seminary website. <https://denverseminary.edu/racism-a-reflection-and-a-prayer/>

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Prayers of the People adapted from "Prayer of the People: The Good Samaritan," posted on the Faith and Unity Department of the Baptist Union of Great Britain <http://www.baptist.org.uk/prayers-of-intercession.html> and reposted on the Re:worship website on June 25, 2013 and from ELCA Worship at Home, <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/>.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Limited in-person worship will begin on ***Sunday, March 7***. Pre-registration will be required to attend in-person. We will be following social distancing guidelines as well, and masks will be required. Online or on-demand worship will continue to be available. Sanctuary doors will be opened 10 minutes prior to worship.

Lenten Kits

The sand included in your Lenten kit is for you to touch. It is a symbol of how God led the Israelites in their journey in the desert and also how Jesus faced temptation for 40 days in the desert.

Mountain of Love

Each Lenten season, Prince of Peace has a Mountain of Love to support the Weekend Backpack Program, Caritas, and the Vilas Food Pantry as a spiritual practice of generosity and almsgiving. This year, we are asking for **monetary donations**, or you can donate specific items needed such as spices, plastic spoons, cooking oil, oatmeal packets or cups, apple cider packets, or dry soup packets when you come to worship or the Annual Meeting. These are much needed items, but rarely donated.

Gathered and Sent Bible Discussion Available By Phone

The weekly Gathered and Sent Bible discussion recording (podcast) is now available by phone. Just call **978-599-7887** and stay on the line to listen to the recording that discusses the upcoming Sunday scripture reading. A new recording is posted every Monday. Gathered and Sent podcasts can also be found on the church website, Spotify, Pandora, Alexa, Audible, iTunes, Apple Podcast, Google Podcasts, and more. Listen, invite, and participate in God's Word.

CURRENT PHASE: 2

- **Limited in-person worship.** Pre-registration will be required to attend in-person. Online or on-demand worship will continue to be available. Please **sign up** on the church website at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/signups/> or by calling the church office. **Please sign up each household individual.** Again, use the sanctuary doors to enter the building. Doors will be unlocked 10 minutes prior to worship.
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building.
- Visitors must wear a facemask and keep to social distancing guidelines.



MISSION STATEMENT

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a community who believes in God's love, knows Jesus as Savior, and is blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thankful for these gifts, we gather to pray and praise, explore God's Word and its meaning for our lives, strengthen each other in our witness, and serve each other and our neighbors in the world.

VISION STATEMENT

Gathered by Grace ~ Sent to serve.
*Core Values: Spirituality, Community,
Grace, Helping Others, Creativity.*

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