

...to see

becoming aware

~ Luke 18:31—19:10~



CELEBRATING THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2021

Park Hill Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

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GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Video

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

1. Next Sunday 28th 2pm Singing Service
2. Easter Flowers and RSVP

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus calls us to life — in all its fullness, not simply a checklist. A life of relationship, of service, of mercy toward all. Jesus calls us to notice — the people around us, the creation, the presence of God in our midst. And having noticed, to be flexible, for this moment matters. Jesus calls us to compassion in action — to allow ourselves to be moved from our plans to God's vision. A vision with room for all.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Blest Be The Tie” #306

Virtual Choir

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers. Our fears, our hopes,
our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love
and friendship reign through all eternity.

CALL TO CONFESSION

As part of our call to confession today, I ask you to do something with your hands. Bunch them up as fists that slowly release. Clasp them together, or lay them palm to palm in a posture of prayer. Interlace your fingers like you were holding hands, or cross your arms. If these are the hands of Christ, let us be intentional in how we use them in this prayer. Today we pray responsively, replying to “Have mercy on us, O God,” with “and teach us to be merciful.”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Compassionate God, you reach out and welcome in and your grace is sufficient — you do not turn from your world. Have mercy on us, O God, **and teach us to be merciful.**

We confess that we often turn away, minds and hearts occupied by our plans and lists, choosing ourselves, our safety, and our desires over the well-being of our neighbor. Have mercy on us, O God, **and teach us to be merciful.**

And we confess, too, that when we *have* tried to do it all, we have spread ourselves so thin that we can no longer recognize what is most important. Have mercy on us, O God, **and teach us to be merciful.**

We admit, Lord, that sometimes it is easier to focus on what other people are not doing, or on setting the rules for who we can safely ignore, than it is to live according to your word day in and day out. Have mercy on us, O God, **and teach us to be merciful.** Forgive us, God, and help us to live fully: to love you and our neighbor with all our being. Hear our confessions and change our hearts. Amen.

HYMN OF FORGIVENESS “There's a Wideness in God's Mercy” #435 Virtual Choir

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.
For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.
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and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: Whenever we ask a question, the Lord is ready to ask one back to us. Let us remember that we already know the answer: Love. For God so loved the world, God gave us The Son, that all who believe in him may have eternal life. Remember, in Jesus Christ you are forgiven. *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

SHARING AND HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

"Zaccheus Was A Wee Little Man"
Tamara & Graham Boggs

Luke 18:31-19:10

LESSON

³¹ Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. ³² For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. ³³ After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." ³⁴ But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

³⁵ As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth^[a] is passing by." ³⁸ Then he shouted, "*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!*" ³⁹ Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "*Son of David, have mercy on me!*" ⁴⁰ Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "*Lord, let me see again.*" ⁴² Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." ⁴³ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I

must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "*Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.*" ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

SERMON

Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell

COMMENTARY by Karl Jacobsen at workingpreacher.org

OFFERTORY

"On Eagle's Wings"

Virtual Choir

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!" And he will raise you up on
eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings, your refuge, his faithfulness your shield. And he will raise you up on
eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. And he will raise you up on
eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

For to his angels he's given a command to guard you in all of your ways; Upon their hands
they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. And he will raise you up on
eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray for ourselves, each other, and the world, responsively saying, Have mercy on us, O God, **and teach us to be merciful.**

For this world is both beautiful and difficult—filled with compassion and destruction, opportunity and closed doors. We pray this day for those who have experienced violence to their body, mind, or spirit. We lift up those who have been stripped of their identity, rights, autonomy, or voice. We ask your help for our neighbors near and far who are left wondering if anyone sees or cares. May all people know your peace, within and around them. Have mercy on us, O God, **and teach us to be merciful.**

We pray this day for those who are trapped in their need to be right. We lift up those who are so caught up in their own status or their own situation that they cannot see anything but their next move. We ask your help for those who are stretched to their limits by their own expectations, and have only hurtful words for those who don't measure up. May all people know your liberating grace, within and around them. Have mercy on us, O God, **and teach us to be merciful.**

We pray this day for those whose to-do list is longer than the hours in the day. We lift up those whose worries about safety lead to shutting others out. We ask your help for those who are trying to blaze a new trail, against opposition from friends and strangers. May all people recognize your presence, within and around them. Have mercy on us, O God, **and teach us to be merciful.**

We pray this day for your Church, that we may love so fully that we experience true life. We lift up the leaders of this world, that they may have vision and courage to do what is right. We ask your help for all your creation, that we may recognize our interdependence with one another. Have mercy on us, O God, **and teach us to be merciful.**

And teach us to pray as Jesus did, saying: **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.**

MOMENT FOR MISSION

We are taking the opportunity to revive our Giving Tree, which for the month of March

is collecting NEW men's and women's underwear, socks and undershirts for Stewpot. You can bring underwear to the church and we will hang them on the Giving Tree for all the world to see – our clean new undies.

GIVING OF OUR OFFERINGS AND TITHES

We serve the Lord with freedom and we worship God with joy. In freedom and joy, let us present the offerings of our lives to the Lord. You may choose to give by mailing your offerings to the church, or giving online. Your gifts maintain our ministries, and make help to others possible. If you know of someone in need—physical, financial, emotional or spiritual...especially if it is yourself, please speak with our pastor or the elder for Congregational Care, Mary Henry.

Doxology "A Lenten Doxology" video
**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.**

Prayer

HYMN OF SENDING "God of Grace and God of Glory" #307

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.
Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.
Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore. Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serv-
ing thee whom we adore.

PASSING THE PEACE

Please "pass the peace" in a phone call, letter, or text, saying to someone else,
"May the Peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you."

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**"The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD's face shine upon you, and be
gracious to you; The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."**

POSTLUDE

"Zaccheus Was A Wee Little Man"

Annabel Stavey