

**New Hope Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship
February 28, 2021
Second Sunday of Lent**

Prelude/Announcements

Interlude

Call to Worship: (adapted from Psalm 27)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing we ask of the Lord; this we will seek:

to live in the presence of God; to see the beauty of God; to seek the truth of God.

Lighting of the Lenten Candle/Affirmation of the Cross

Each time we meet for worship during Lent, we will light a candle to pierce the gloominess of the Lenten season until we get to the glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

During this time, we will reflect on the cross. To do that, we will look at different shaped crosses and what their significance is in the overall story of redemption through Jesus the Christ, who endured the cross.

Paul tells the church at Corinth: For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Today we reflect on the Eastern Cross. It has the usual stem (the tree) and the cross beam (which is what Jesus would have carried through the streets of Jerusalem on his way to Calvary). It has a second beam at the top, where the words inscribed above Jesus would have been nailed (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews). Finally, it has the extra piece at the bottom where Jesus' feet would have been nailed together.

Hymn #17

Ye Servants of God

verse 1:

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad His wonderful name;

The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol:
His kingdom is glorious, He rules over all.

verse 2:

God ruleth on high, almighty to save,
And still He is nigh, His presence we have;
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

verse 3:

“Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!”
Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

verse 4:

Then let us adore, and give Him His right -
All glory and pow'r, all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.

TEXT: Charles Wesley MUSIC: William Croft
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Prayer of Confession:

God our Redeemer, we confess that we are people of ashes and dust. You call us to be a blessing in the world, but we only seek our own benefit. You call us to give our lives for others, but we only seek to save ourselves. Forgive us, God of grace. Set our minds on divine things – the good news of the gospel and the promise of new life in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Words of Assurance

Friends, we are people of ashes and dust.
But through Jesus Christ we have new life.
Believe the Good News – that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
Amen and amen! Praise the Lord!

Gloria Patri

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, open the eyes of our souls that we can receive your Word this day. Give us ears to hear and allow us to take in your message of love through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty¹; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram¹; your name will be Abraham,¹ for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

¹⁵ God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

Mark 8:31-38

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

The Way of the Cross

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^a will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

All scripture New International Version, through biblegateway.com,
accessed on February 22, 2021.

Reflection

Time of Self Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing

(This slide should be BEFORE the information re: how to give)

Prayers of the People w/the Lord's Prayer

Hymn#188 (red)

At the Cross

Verse 1

Alas! And did my Savior bleed? And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I!

Refrain

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light
And the burden of my heart rolled away –
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

Verse 2

Was it for crimes that I have done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

REFRAIN

Verse 3

Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died for am the creature's sin.

REFRAIN

Verse 4

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away – 'Tis all that I can do!

REFRAIN

TEXT: Isaac Watts, Ralph E. Hudson, Refrain
MUSIC: Ralph E. Hudson
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Blessing