

**March 22, 2019 + 10:30 A.M.**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**We Join in Worship**

**THE PEACE OF CHRIST** *(Worshippers are invited to take a moment to reflect on what it means to have Christ's peace and to share Christ's peace with the world.)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Adapted from Psalm 23)*

Leader: The LORD is our shepherd, we shall not want. The LORD makes us lie down in green pastures and leads us beside still waters.

**ALL: The LORD restores our souls. The LORD leads us in right paths for the LORD's name's sake.**

Leader: Even though we walk through the darkest valley, we fear no evil; for the LORD is with us; the LORD's rod and staff comfort us.

**ALL: The LORD prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies; the LORD anoints our heads with oil; our cups overflow.**

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**ALL: Let us worship the LORD!**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION:**

Leader: In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes, "Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God." With the assurance of that grace, let us confess our sins.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**God of grace and mercy, we join our hearts and voices together to confess our sins. We confess that we have ignored and forgotten the power of connection. We have put up barriers between us based on society's constructs. These barriers have moved to our souls and spirits, creating ever more profound disconnection. Even though physical disconnection may be necessary, we allow spiritual disconnection. We also block ourselves off from your life-giving touch for us. And so we hold back from reaching out to you. Forgive us. In the name of Jesus Christ, savior of the world, we pray. Amen.**

**KYRIE:** No. 572 (unison)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God proves God's love for us in that while we still were sinners  
Christ died for us!" Friends, in Christ we can become new!

**ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

**GLORIA PATRI:** No. 579 (unison)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH:** *(from The Larger Westminster Catechism)*

Leader: How did Christ humble himself in his life?

**ALL: Christ humbled himself in his life by subjecting himself to the law, which he perfectly fulfilled, and by conflicting with the indignities of the world, temptations of Satan, and infirmities in his flesh; whether common to the nature of humanity, or particularly accompanying his low condition.**

Leader: How did Christ humble himself in his death?

**ALL: Christ humbled himself in his death, in that having been betrayed by Judas, forsaken by his disciples, scorned and rejected by the world, condemned by Pilate, and tormented by his persecutors and having also conflicted with the terrors of death and the powers of darkness, felt and borne the weight of God's wrath, he laid down his life an offering for sin, enduring the painful, shameful, and cursed death of the cross.**

## We Hear God's Word

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** (Unison)

**Saving Spirit, as you gathered us in the wilderness and led us to a land flowing with milk and honey, gather us before your Word and lead us into your wisdom that we might be equipped to follow your Son on this Lenten path. Amen.**

**HEBREW BIBLE LESSON:** Isaiah 50:4-9a

**EPISTLE LESSON:** Romans 5:1-11

**GOSPEL LESSON:** John 10:20-42

**SERMON:** "Disconnection"

**HYMN:** No. 101 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

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

## OFFERTORY INVITATION:

Leader: Today we are learning what it means to be connected to each other while being far apart. Our continued spiritual togetherness and connection includes the continuation of our pledges, tithes, and offerings. I encourage you to mail in checks or take advantage of our online giving options through the website. Now let us take a moment to reflect on stewardship.

**RESPONSE:** No. #591 (tune only) Unison

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** (Unison)

**God of grace and mercy, we dedicate these gifts to you and to your service.**  
**Grant us wisdom as we seek to use it in sharing your love with the world.**  
**Guide us to the places and people most in need of your touch. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

## We Go Into the World

## BENEDICTION

### Opportunities to serve as the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ:

- **BLESSING BOX** – Our Blessing Box has gained even more importance in this season of pandemic. Economic impacts are on the rise, and the most vulnerable in our midst are the most harmed. Please continue to place items in the Blessing Box and take items if you are a person in need! Items most commonly donated: Canned goods with pull tabs, socks, hats, mittens, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers.
- **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** –Keep filling your fish banks!

### Informational Announcements:

- **LENTEN STUDY AND PRACTICE** - “Isn’t This the Fast I Choose?” If you would like to join our email list for virtual participation, please email Tyler at [pastorem@fpchighland.org](mailto:pastorem@fpchighland.org).

- **SECRET PRAYER PARTNER**—It is now more important than ever to pray for each other! Please keep your prayer partner on your heart and remember to send a card come Resurrection Sunday.
- **New Kitchen Liaison** - Tracy Oprea has volunteered to assist the Trustees with concerns pertaining to the Kitchen. Tracy is now acting as a liaison between the congregation and the Trustees pertaining to issues or concerns with the kitchen. If you are using the kitchen and an issue arises, Tracy would greatly appreciate you indicating the same on the “**Kitchen Log**” that can be found on the counter under the light switch. Please identify the date, time, your name and the issue or concern. Tracy will review the “Kitchen Log” weekly and relay the information to the Trustees and identify on the “Kitchen Log” that the Trustees have knowledge of the issue or concern. Of course, if there is an urgent matter please feel free to contact Tracy Oprea at (219) 616-7181.
- **SHOP WITH SCRIP** - Our next order will be placed March 30th or you can order anytime by using Presto Pay for e cards and My Wallet availability. Questions can be directed to Sharon LaFlech at 219.838.3346 or [laflech@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laflech@sbcglobal.net).
- **OFFICE HOURS**—Kristen will not be in this week. Pastor Tyler will be in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning from 8:00 to 11:30.

*The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Highland is to be  
the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ*

**First Presbyterian Church of Highland**



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 PASTOR EMERITUS: Rev. Dr. Leroy H. Fassett  
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 PARISH VISITOR: Arletta Schaefer

# When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 101

HAMBURG LM

Isaac Watts, 1707

Lowell Mason, 1824

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the  
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor - row and  
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a

Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
death of Christ my God; All the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down; Did e'er such love and  
pres - ent far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.  
sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

### **Isaiah 50:4-9a**

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

<sup>9</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

### **Romans 5:1-11**

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps

for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### **John 10:20-42**

<sup>20</sup> Many of them were saying, "He has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?" <sup>21</sup> Others were saying, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

<sup>22</sup> At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one."

<sup>31</sup> The Jews took up stones again to stone him. <sup>32</sup> Jesus replied, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?" <sup>33</sup> The Jews answered, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God." <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law,<sup>[c]</sup> 'I said, you are gods'? <sup>35</sup> If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods'—and the scripture cannot be annulled— <sup>36</sup> can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's Son'? <sup>37</sup> If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. <sup>38</sup> But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand<sup>[d]</sup> that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." <sup>39</sup> Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands.

<sup>40</sup> He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. <sup>41</sup> Many came to him, and they were saying, "John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." <sup>42</sup> And many believed in him there.



Jesus loved little children. When parents brought their children to Him, He took them in His arms and blessed them.



## Connecting through Jesus

Today in the Gospel reading from the Book of John, we read about a time when people were finding it hard to connect with what Jesus was teaching and doing – they didn't understand him. Jesus kept trying to show and tell them about God, but they didn't understand. Jesus and the people weren't able to connect.

Do you ever feel like you aren't connecting with someone? Are there times when you don't understand what someone is talking about? We all go through times when it's harder to connect with others. Right now, our schools are closed, we aren't worshipping in our church buildings together, and we can't just go hang out with our friends when we want to. Lots of connections are being missed.

There is a message Jesus taught to help with connections - Love! Because God loves us, we can love each other and all be connected in God's love. And even if we can't show God's love by being in the same place as others right now, there are lots of ways to show God's love from a distance and remind people of our connection through God. Try some of these ideas:

- Make a card, write a letter, or email a friend or relative who you miss
- With an adult's help, make a video call to a friend or relative who doesn't live with you
- Make an encouraging poster or sign for your front window for neighbors to see when they go by
- Donate non-perishable food items and personal care items to our church's Blessing Box, a food pantry or other places where you know people are in need
- Pray for people who are alone or sick right now
- Smile and wave to neighbors and friends from your own porch or yard

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for connecting us all with your love! Help us during these unexpected times to find ways to be connected to each other and spread your love. Even when we are confused or don't understand, we can be faithful because you are watching over us. Amen.*



From <https://www.word-game-world.com>

For example, F → → ↓ = Q

**Puzzle #1**

1. S ← ← ↑ = \_\_\_\_\_

2. G ↓ ↓ ← = \_\_\_\_\_

3. L → ↑ ↑ ↑ = \_\_\_\_\_

4. O ↑ ↑ → = \_\_\_\_\_

5. F → → ↑ = \_\_\_\_\_

6. J → → → = \_\_\_\_\_

7. V ↓ ↓ ← = \_\_\_\_\_

8. Z ↑ → ↑ → = \_\_\_\_\_

9. P ← ← ↑ = \_\_\_\_\_

10. Q ↓ ← ← = \_\_\_\_\_

11. M ↓ ↓ → = \_\_\_\_\_

I	G	E	C	X	D
K	H	P	W	V	Y
H	X	R	Y	M	T
F	L	Z	E	K	C
D	T	Q	H	O	E
N	J	W	S	U	B

Jesus said, "I am \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_"

Do you know where this verse is located?

