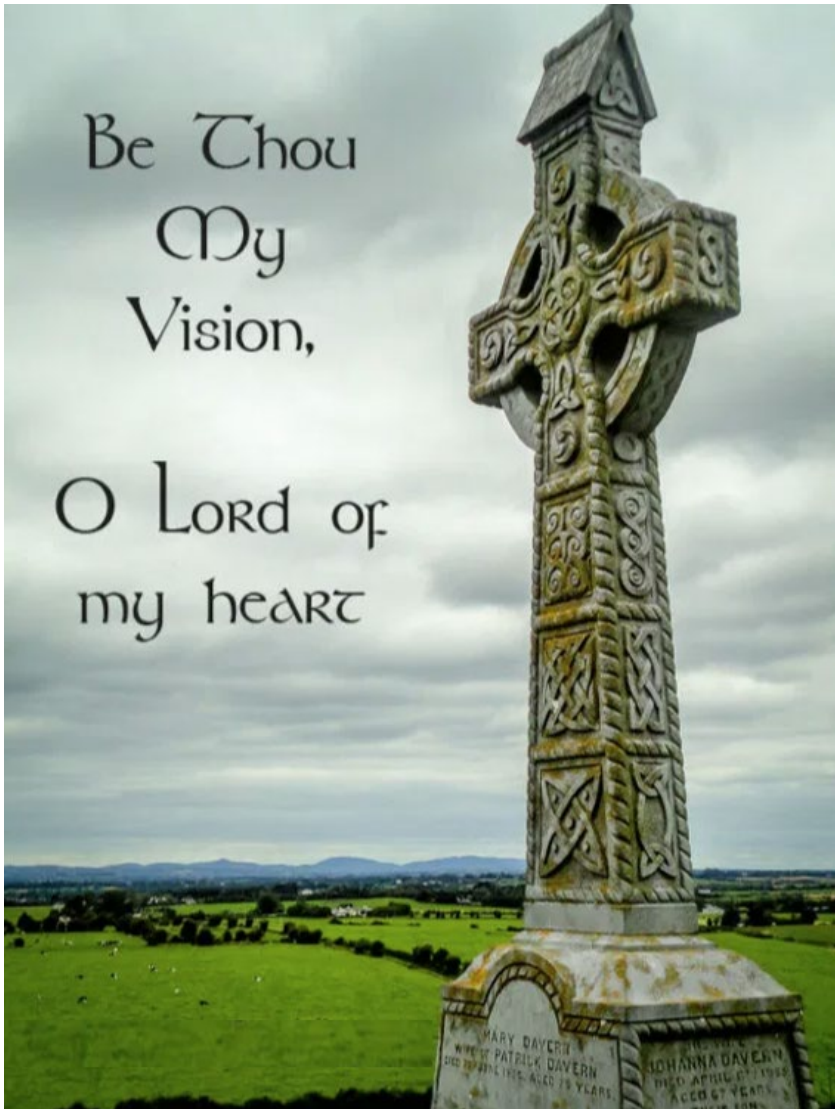


# First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)

14391 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, VA 22193

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Lenten Evening Prayer and Song

February 24, 2021

7:00 PM

The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor

[Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org](mailto:Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org)

828.448.8914

As we gather... "Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out." - *N.T. Wright*

## WELCOME

### + 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.**

### + OPENING HYMN

*Be Thou My Vision*

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1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this:

While we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,

So that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion,

Let us confess our sin before God and one another, praying together. . .

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Your word still rings true, Lord, generation after generation. You are a God who keeps promises. Yet we confess that we would prefer your work to conform to our timeline, and even better to our desires. We sometimes pay lip service to your word while seeking our own glory. And when we are frustrated and yearn for an answer, our words are often bland and cliché while our faith is in turmoil. Forgive us, O God, for our impatience and our unwillingness to be completely honest, even with you. Help us to trust you enough to grow into real relationship with you. Hear us now, as we continue to confess in the silence of our hearts. . .

*(A time of Silent Confession)*

## KYRIE

*Lord, Have Mercy*

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Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Forgiven and healed, we open ourselves to the grace, the peace, the hope offered to us through our loving God. There is no wrong that God cannot make right. There is no chasm that can separate us from God's love. Hearing this, know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

**Thanks be to God!**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Tiffany Ramsey

God of Life, help us know you're present with us always, with mercies fresh each day. Journey with us and help us grow in faith so our lives will better reflect the love of Christ, in whom we live and pray.

**Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 25:1-10 NRSV

Tiffany Ramsey

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.

<sup>3</sup> Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

<sup>6</sup> Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

<sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup> All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Peter 3:18-22 NRSV

Denise Parris

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### *Again & Again*

Music by Hannah Rand, Lyrics by Lenora Rand

As recorded by The Many.

Commissioned by “A Sanctified Art” for Lent 2021

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CCLI Song # 7168291

### + AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here,  
Bigger than the sky and in the smallest details,  
All at once and in every moment.

We believe that God meets us where we are—  
In heartbreak and high hopes,  
Around crowded tables and in quiet homes,  
In joy and in suffering,  
In loneliness and in connection,  
In sanctuaries and in living rooms,  
In marches and in waiting rooms.

We believe that nothing we do or leave undone  
Can distance us from God’s love.  
God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in.  
Again and again, God meets us where we are  
And invites us into wholeness.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

### + SENDING HYMN

*Bless the Lord*

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The Anderson Family

### + CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Adapted from a Charge and Benediction by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

As you leave this space,  
May your mouth speak of God’s goodness.  
May your arms hold those in need.  
May your feet walk toward justice.  
May your heart trust its worth.  
May your soul dance in God’s grace.  
And may this be your rhythm—  
Again and again and again,  
Until God’s promised day.  
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.  
**Amen.**

**+ POSTLUDE**

*It is Well with My Soul*  
Justin Stretetz, Pianist

Philip P. Bliss, *Arr.* Joel Raney

+ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*