

# First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)

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Lenten Evening Prayer and Song

March 24, 2021

7:00 PM Live Stream

The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor

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**As we gather...** "...new life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark." - Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor, Learning to Walk in the Dark

## WELCOME

### + CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather us in,  
the lost and the lonely,  
the broken and breaking,  
the tired and the aching  
who long for the nourishment  
found at your feast.

**Gather us in,**  
the done and the doubting,  
the wishing and wondering,  
the puzzled and pondering  
who long for the company  
found at your feast.

**Gather us in,**  
the proud and pretentious,  
the sure and superior,  
the never inferior,  
who long for the leveling  
found at your feast.

**Gather us in,**  
the bright and the bustling  
the stirrers, the shakers,  
the kind laughter makers  
who long for the deeper joys  
found at your feast.

**Gather us in,**  
from corner or limelight,  
from mansion or campsite,  
from fears and obsession,  
from tears and depression,  
from untold excesses,  
from treasured successes,  
to meet, to eat,  
be given a seat,  
be joined to the vine,  
be offered new wine,  
become like the least,  
be found at the feast.

**Gather us in!**

**+ OPENING HYMN**

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

Chris Anderson, Musician

471

O, Lord hear my prayer  
O, Lord hear my prayer  
All my hope comes from God.  
O, Lord hear my prayer  
O, Lord hear my prayer  
God, the wellspring of life.

*Note: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" is from the Taizé Community in France. The musical style of Taizé emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, repeated many times and sometimes also sung in canon. The repeated nature of these lines are designed so that the song can become a prayer for the participant.*

**PRAYER**

Gaylene Guest

Let us pray.

In you, gracious God,  
the widowed find a carer,  
the orphaned find a parent,  
the fearful find a friend.

In you,  
the wounded find a healer,  
the penitent find a pardoner,  
the burdened find a counsellor.

In you,  
the miserly find a beggar,  
the despondent find a laughter-maker,  
the legalists find a rule-breaker.

In you, Jesus Christ,  
we meet our Maker,  
and our match.

And if some need to say, 'Help me'  
and if some need to say, 'Save me'  
and if some need to say, 'Hold me'  
and if some need to say, 'Forgive me'  
then let these be said now  
in confidence  
by us.

*(A Time of Silent Confession)*

O Christ,  
in whose heart is both welcome and warning,  
say to us,  
do to us,  
reveal within us  
the things that will make us whole.

And we will wait;  
and we will praise you.  
**Amen.**

**KYRIE**

*Lord, Have Mercy*

551

**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 AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Hear now the words of Jesus for all those who confess and seek to renew their lives:  
"Your sins are forgiven. Go now in peace to love one another." Let us pray together in  
Jesus' name. . .

. . . 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Betsy Gilbert

Sing into our ears, O Spirit, the holy Word of life. Tell us who we are and to whom we  
belong so that we may live with gratitude for all you have done.

**Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Psalm 51:1-12 NRSV

Betsy Gilbert

Have mercy on me, O God,  
    according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
    blot out my transgressions.  
<sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
    and cleanse me from my sin.  
  
<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
    and my sin is ever before me.  
<sup>4</sup>Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
    and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
    and blameless when you pass judgment.  
<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born guilty,  
    a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
  
<sup>6</sup>You desire truth in the inward being;  
    therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
    wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
    let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
    and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **ANTHEM**

*Here We Stand, Lord*  
FUPCDC Music Team

Nancy Price, Don Besig

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Philippians 2:5-11 NRSV

Morelle Fokwa

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

*(A Time of Silent Meditation)*

## + AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Affirmation of Faith by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

I refuse to believe that I am powerless.  
I refuse to believe that injustice and hatred are simply the way it has to be.  
I refuse to believe that I am better or more deserving than my neighbor.  
I refuse to believe that my self-worth is rooted in my accomplishments or appearance.  
I refuse to believe that the Church is dying, because I see God all around me.  
I refuse to believe that the traditions of old are the only path for moving forward.  
I refuse to believe that I cannot make a difference.  
So with hope in my heart, I will strive to live a life of courage, conviction, and compassion,  
Just as Jesus taught us. Amen.

## + SENDING HYMN

*Jesus, Remember Me*  
Becca Anderson, Musician

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Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

*Note: "Jesus, Remember Me" is from the Taizé Community in France. The musical style of Taizé emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, repeated many times and sometimes also sung in canon. The repeated nature of these lines are designed so that the song can become a prayer for the participant.*

## + 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

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*  
Justin Streletz, Pianist

ANONYMOUS, Arr. Mark Hayes

+ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Much of tonight's worship liturgy is from the Celtic tradition of the Iona Community, Scotland.

Founding of the Iona Community - The Iona Community was founded in Glasgow and Iona in 1938 by George MacLeod, minister, visionary and prophetic witness for peace, in the context of the poverty and despair of the Depression. From a dockland parish in Govan, Glasgow, he took unemployed skilled craftsmen and young trainee clergy to Iona to rebuild both the monastic quarters of the mediaeval abbey and the common life by working and living together, sharing skills and effort as well as joys and achievement. That original task became a sign of hopeful rebuilding of community in Scotland and beyond. The experience shaped - and continues to shape - the practice and principles of the Iona Community.

