

**March 14, 2021**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**PRELUDE**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Pastor Craig

**PASSING OF PEACE, LENTEN RINGING OF THE BOWL**

Pastor Diane

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Israel traveled from Mount Hor along the route of the Red Sea, but the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, saying, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! We detest this miserable manna!" Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look on it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole. Then, when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

**OPENING HYMN**

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

610

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of God's grace!

Christ speaks, and listening to his voice  
New life the dead receive;  
The mournful waken to rejoice;  
The poor in heart believe.

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of thy name.

## **CALL TO PRAYER**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Dear God, we have sinned against You and against one another. Tired of fear, we have been short and hostile with others' needs. We have blamed You for bringing this plague and our problems upon us. We have bound our fears and anxiety to those not responsible, because it was easier to blame someone than to live alone with doubt. Creator, permit us to look upon our mortality, to glimpse how fragile life is, that we might believe in life beyond this life, hope beyond our understanding. LORD, we believe, but help our unbeliefs. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Remember that our Lord Jesus can empathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every way he was mortal and tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ: We are forgiven!

### **GLORIA PATRI**

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.

### **ANTHEM**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE 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 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.**

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**          John 3:10-21

<sup>10</sup> “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

### **SERMON**

Looking At Our Fears

Pastor Craig

### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Fight the good fight with all thy might;  
 Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right:  
 lay hold on life, and it shall be  
 thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace,  
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face;  
 life with its way before us lies,  
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside; upon thy Guide  
 God's boundless mercy will provide;  
 Trust and thy trusting soul shall prove,  
 Christ is its life and Christ its love.

**CALL FOR OFFERING****OFFERTORY****\*DOXOLOGY**

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

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

When I survey the wondrous cross  
 On which the Prince of glory died,  
 My richest gain I count but loss,  
 And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
 Sorrow and love flow mingled down!

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** (Sunday live worship only)

May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.  
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.  
Lift up your eyes and see His face, and His grace forever.  
May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

**POSTLUDE**

\*please stand

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**Today's Hymn Singer**

Due to Covid-19, we must request we not sing aloud.

**All taped Worship Services are available for replay on the Special Video Worship**

**Welcome to all who view our worship services at home and to those who enter our sanctuary.** Drink deeply of the living waters of God's grace as we worship together in spirit. If you are a visitor and would like more information about our church, visit us at [valleypres.net](http://valleypres.net) where you can sign up for our daily email blasts and monthly newsletter. You can also pick up a Welcome Packet at the Welcome Centers when you visit us in person. We are glad you have joined us today.

**Flowers given by:**

**The Rose on the Baptismal Font Celebrates these Witnesses  
to the Resurrection in Jesus Christ:**

**Please remember those currently or recently hospitalized:**

**Lenten Taize Worship**

This Wednesday, March 17, 5:00 p.m. on our website ([valleypres.net](http://valleypres.net)). We continue the Stations of The Cross.