

Third Sunday of Lent – March 3, 2024

“Guided to the Cross – Guided To Peace”

Theme Verse: *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:19-20*

Prelude – Jill Rimington

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

P: May the peace of our Lord be with you always!

C: And also with you.

Invocation and Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

L: We live in a world where peace can be hard to find. We are surrounded by strife and quarrels. We are often filled with worry and fear. Jesus tells us, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (John 14:27)

C: Jesus our Savior, when we are troubled and worried by the strife around us, grant us your peace.

L: The world’s peace depends on the absence of war and strife and trouble. The peace that Jesus brings to us is not like the world’s peace. The peace of Jesus depends only on Jesus. The world’s peace can be lost, but the peace that Jesus brings to us is ours forever.

C: Jesus our Savior, even in times of trouble or fear, grant us your peace.

L: By God's grace, through faith in Jesus we have peace even in the midst of trouble. Through faith in Jesus, we have peace with God through the forgiveness of our sins. It is peace that Jesus won for us through his death on the cross and his triumphant resurrection. It is peace that we can share with others as we tell them of Jesus' love.

C: Jesus our Savior, grant us your peace.

Opening Hymn – “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ELW #338

<https://youtu.be/nMbcm4PZI04>
by Fountainview Accademy

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness
A time of silence for reflection

As Jesus offers peace so we hold that peace and confess:

C: Almighty God, you have called us to peace, but so often we choose strife and anger. We do not seek to follow your will and walk in love. Instead, we listen to the temptations of the world around us, and we are often the cause of strife. We live according to our own selfish desires. Have mercy on us, and forgive us. Lead us each day to follow our Savior.

P: God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to suffer and die for our sins to bring us peace with God and with one another. By the power and promise of God's peace in Christ, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Lenten Response – “What Wondrous Love Is This” ELW #666

<https://youtu.be/n-UmemwpAvA>

by Fernando Ortega

Prayer of the Day

L: Jesus, Lord and Savior, through the blood of your cross, you have brought us forgiveness for our sins and peace with God.

C: When the circumstance of life and the dangers and concerns of the world around us threaten the peace that we have, help us remember your promise, that you will be with us always.

L: Make us bold witnesses for you so that, in the power of the Holy Spirit, others will come to know the peace that you alone can bring.

C: Set your cross before us to guide us in the way of peace. Amen.

Preparing for the Word

L: All creation proclaims God's glory and handiwork.

C: So let us lend our voices and spirits to the praise of God.

L: Let the words of our mouth and the meditation of our hearts

C: Be acceptable to you, O God, our rock and our redeemer.

(adapted from Psalm 19)

The Word

Old Testament reading – Isaiah 53:4-5

Peace that comes as He carried our griefs and sorrows.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle reading – Colossians 1:15-20

The peace of God that passes all understanding.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – Luke 23:44-46

https://youtu.be/gTy_pMsBEG0?si=yx5nl77VE7G3w5K6

The Holy Gospel According to Luke. **Glory to you O Lord.**

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children of God Time

<https://youtu.be/wnNiNQmaDB8?si=l9370MGKxrEZszWb>

Message – *Peace that Passes All Understanding*

<https://youtu.be/4J-hxallMqA?si=FAcx1PPo-6kXqPMr>

Hymn of the Day – “Let Justice Flow like Streams” ELW #717

<https://youtu.be/TD5YwR2ND6l>

by Ray Edwards

Apostles’ 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 was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of

the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessory Prayers

P: Lord Jesus, you suffered and died for our sins, and by your wounds, we have received healing from our sins and we have peace with God.

During this Lenten season, as we follow your path to the cross, set your cross always before us to guide us in the way of peace. Jesus, Prince of Peace,

C: Hear our prayer, and grant us peace.

L: Lord Jesus, the cross that you carried to Golgotha was not known as an instrument of peace, but as a terrible instrument of death. Yet through your sacrifice, the cross has become for us a sign of love and peace. Through the blood you shed on the cross, God has reconciled all things to himself, making peace through the blood of your cross. Jesus, Prince of Peace,

C: Hear our prayer, and grant us peace.

L: Lord Jesus, the world around us is rarely at peace, and when it is, that worldly peace can be a fragile thing. We must deal with conflicts and quarrels, troubled times among our own friends and family members and the threat and reality of war among nations. Yet you have promised that when we bring our fears and worries to you in prayer, you will guard our hearts and minds with your peace. Jesus, Prince of Peace,

C: Hear our prayer, and grant us your peace.

L: Lord Jesus, we pray for people who are suffering through illness, grief and other difficult circumstances. Grant to them the peace that you alone can give. Comfort them through the promises of your Word, and give us opportunities to serve them and to share your love with them. Jesus, Prince of Peace,

C: Hear our prayer, and grant us your peace.

P: Lord Jesus, right now each day, we have forgiveness and peace through faith in your name. We look forward to the day when we will live in your presence, where we will enjoy peace forever. Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace,

C: Hear our prayer, and grant us your peace.

Amen.

Offering/Offertory Music – “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” ELW #697

Offertory Prayer

L: We pay you homage, O King.

C: Accept our gifts –

L: Not as sacrifice or moneylenders’ coin –

C: But as the presence of peace in our lives.

L: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us,

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Consecration

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

Distribution

Communion Music – Jill Rimington

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

L: Lord Jesus Christ you do not desire sacrifice.

C: You, yourself have filled that role.

L: Help us to offer what you do desire –

C: the peace of God and love of neighbor.

L: These are the gifts fit for our King.

C: Amen.

Benediction from Numbers 6 – Pastor

Sending Hymn – “O Day of Peace” ELW #711

<https://youtu.be/anFKQzrmwC8>
by First Congregational Church

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God .

Postlude – Jill Rimington