Celebration in Worship
Second Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2020

We believe the words of Jesus reflect the heart of the Divine:
"I will never turn away anyone who comes to me."
John 6:37

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRAYER OF PREPARATION
O God our Creator, your kindness has given us a new morning. Help us to leave yesterday, not be anxious about tomorrow, and appreciate the unique gift of today. Open us to the movement of your Holy Spirit that we may desire to bring new order, new possibility, and new hope in this land, and new life in the depths of our being. Amen.

PRELUDE ***Adagio for Strings*** Samuel Barber, arr. by William Strickland

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Responsive)*
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
We are in the presence of God.
Leave the places you have known and walk with God.
Leave behind thoughts of limitation and imagine.
But we are secure where we are.

Ahh, but new ways of being in this world are possible for each of us.
Can't God bless us where we are, and as we are?

If you trust enough to move from the places you have known,
and question the systems around us, you will be blessed.
God is our light and our salvation.
Lord, we open ourselves to you.
Direct our paths and open our hearts and minds.

In this place, in every place,
for this time, for all time.
Let us worship our God.

HYMN 49** ***The God of Abraham Praise

CALL TO CONFESSION
When we least expect it, even when we are not ready, God comes to us, calling us to trust, calling us to follow, calling us to set aside our foolish lives for the grace-full ones which are offered to us. Let us confess how often we choose not to follow, as we pray together saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of salvation, you shower our lives and our world with love, yet we too often turn away from your blessing. It is just so easy to complain! There are little annoyances each day, but they pile up into a mountainous burden that becomes a curse on our lives. Free us from our unwise choices, O God. When we are distracted and confused, redirect our attention to the abundant opportunities to experience your love. During this Lenten journey, focus our hearts on you, that we may choose the blessing of salvation offered us each day through Jesus Christ, in whom we pray.

A period of silent prayer is observed.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ASSURANCE OF GRACE
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: the old life has passed away; everything has become new! All this is from God, who has reconciled us to God's own self through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Receive the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen!

SUNG RESPONSE 544 ***Bless the Lord*** (sung 3x)
Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

***PASSING THE PEACE**
The Peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.

TIME FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

ANTHEM ***If You But Trust in God to Guide*** arr. David Cherwien

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Genesis 12:1-4a & Psalm 121

SERMON So Abram Went

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 177** ***I Will Come to You

AN INVITATION TO OFFERING
God's wisdom turns the wisdom of the world upside down. God calls us to unexpected and extravagant opportunities to grow in our gifts and in our faith. Holding things close in fear distracts us from the path of discipleship, but trusting in God and in God's future leads us to great generosity and joy. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

OFFERTORY **Theme from *Schindler's List*** John Williams

Please use the yellow prayer request cards found in the pew and place them in the offering plate to be included in the prayers of the people and/or the email prayer ministry of CPC.

LENTEN DOXOLOGY* *tune: Old Hundredth*
Praise God, throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER
Holy One, You trust us enough to place your blessings in and with us, so may we be as faithful in offering them back to you. We do so praying that others might be accompanied in their loneliness, might be fed in their emptiness, and might receive hope in their despair. Trusting your faithfulness, we also bring before you the prayers of this community . . .

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.

*** HYMN 541** ***God Be with You Till We Meet Again***

*** BLESSING**

POSTLUDE ***The God of Abraham Praise*** Robert J. Powell

** Indicates a time in the service when you are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

** The *Lenten Doxology* is written by G.W. Dub Shepherd. Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. Web site http://www.umcworship.org. Used with permission.

WELCOME
Visitors, friends, members, welcome to worship! Please feel free to participate in ways that you feel led, and comfortable if you would just like to observe. If you are interested in learning more about making Central Presbyterian your church home, please speak with Pastor Jennifer or the welcome greeter following the service.

We are glad you are here and invite you to join us for coffee and snacks In the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.

Flowers today have been given by Susan Bloom to the glory of God and in memory of Ron Bloom.