

Astoria First United Methodist Church
March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances Gunn

CENTERING MUSIC

“Take Time to Be Holy”

Mary Frances Gunn

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gloria Jones

Weary and overwhelmed, we gather. God’s holy word revives us. Simple and confused, we yield. God’s word gives us wisdom. Blind and uncomprehending, we await. God’s word enlightens our eyes. More precious than gold is God’s word. Sweeter than honey are God’s commands. Come, let us worship you, Lord our God, that we might discern your will for our lives. Come, let us worship you, Lord our God, that we might recall the bondage from which you, in Christ Jesus have delivered us. Come, let us worship the Lord our God, that we might discern your Spirit’s leading in our lives and the ministry in our corner of the world to which we have all been called.

AMEN

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

SCRIPTURE READING

Gloria Jones

“The Ten Commandments”

1. Worship God alone.
2. Don’t let anything take the place of God in your life.
3. Always honor God with your words.
4. Dedicate a day each week for rest and worship of the Lord.
5. Honor your father and mother with respect
6. Don’t hate or harm any person in any way.
7. Show respect for your body, other people’s bodies, and all relationships.
8. Do not take anything that doesn't belong to you.
9. Always tell the truth.
10. Be content and thankful for what God has given you.

SCRIPTURE READING**Gloria Jones***“Excerpts from Psalm 19”*

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims God’s handiwork. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard, their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. In keeping them there is great reward. Give me wisdom, insight and the awareness of the faults I try to hide, even from you, Lord. I pray Lord that you would relieve me from the sin of defiance, overconfidence, *and thinking more highly of myself than I think of you, Lord Jesus*. Help me cling to you, rather than belief that I can do anything apart from you. My Lord is that the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION****Gloria Jones**

You give us your commandments, Holy One, so we may have new life, but we continue to make the same old choices. Your love can anchor us when life threatens to overwhelm us, but we choose to cling to the slippery rocks of anger and bitterness. Your Word can strengthen us for every moment, but we listen to the foolish promises of the world. Forgive us, Redeemer of our lives: may every word be shaped by your Word; may every thought be refined by your grace; may every deed be inspired by your Spirit, so we may tell everyone we meet of your work in us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **AMEN**

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**WORDS OF ASSURANCE****Gloria Jones**

When brokenhearted prayers replace piety, when we seek wholeness through the One broken for us, then we remember we are saved by God's powerful love. We are healed, to bring healing to our world; we are strengthened in faith, to become spent for others; we are set free from our bondage to sin, so we may become servants of Christ. Thanks be to God. **AMEN**

SCRIPTURE READING

Gloria Jones

“Excerpts from I Corinthians 1”

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. Where is the one who is wise? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For what people view as the foolishness of God are actually words of wisdom that are wiser than all of those who claim to know all things. In fact, what the world thinks of as weakness, is beyond any amount of strength displayed by the strongest human being. In a similar way, the word, or the message of Jesus dying on the cross, is seen as mad and irrational as did to Peter who challenged Jesus when he spoke about death on a cross. It seems that in taking the risk of believing against what makes sense we can experience the power of God that saves us.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Mary Frances Gunn

“How Great Thou Art”

UMH#77

GOSPEL LESSON

“John 2:13-22”

Pastor Michael

SERMON

“Who is on the Lord’s side? Come to me!”

Pastor Michael

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mary Frances

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Michael

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

(Please remember to bring the communion elements of the bread and juice with you today)

BENEDICTION:

Pastor Michael

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC
as they join us for worship.**

**As a follow-up to our recent Four Week Advent Study,
We are beginning another study in the new year.**

Topic: Extraordinary Men and Women in the Bible

Our next study will be Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

Time: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. by Zoom

**Our Stewardship / Pledge Drive was in January and it's not too late to
send your pledge cards into the church office As Soon As Possible.**

We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.

Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.

If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.

We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.
