

New Life Presbyterian Church
3rd Sunday of Lent
March 7, 2021

Prelude *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Prayer

Quote of the day

The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing. - Socrates

Announcements

Bible Study - Wednesdays at 6:30p
Zoom Call-in # 1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 817 1669 7011
Passcode: 260183

Photos – Send to Deb in the church office

Call To Worship

Come with us on this Lenten Journey to the Temple

The temple is the great House of the Lord.

But sometimes even greed and selfishness can enter the Temple.

Our lives can so easily become corrupted by temptations.

But the Lord has heard our cries and calls us forward on this journey.

Let us open our hearts to the healing, restoring love of God.

Come, let us worship God who is always with us.

Call to Confession

We have been called to love our God with all of our heart, mind, strength and soul, and to love our neighbor as ourselves, but our lives are constricted

and self-consumed. We have failed to love God, neighbor and ourselves as we should. Let us confess our sins, first individually in silence and then together as one family in Christ. Let us pray.

Silence

Prayer of Confession

Patient Lord, we have cluttered the “temples” of our lives with so much unnecessary things that they have blocked out your healing words of hope and mercy. We have been keenly aware of our economic situation and have spent much time and energy worrying about these things, rather than first seeking the kingdom of heaven. Forgive us when we have been so preoccupied with these things that we have not listened to your words and followed your ways. Clear away our fears and frustrations. Give us clean hearts and spirits. Help us to be confident in your mercy and transformational love. These things we offer in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Let the clutter of your life fall away and be replaced by the steadfast love of God. God’s radical forgiving, transforming and justice-seeking love will not let us go, and is ever bringing resurrection and new life. Friends believe in the promise of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, thanks be to God.

Sharing the Peace of Christ Jesus

Peace be with you
And also with you.

Song

Mighty To Save

Verse 1

Ev'ryone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

Chorus

Saviour He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

Verse 2

So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Ev'rything I believe in
Now I surrender

Bridge

Shine your light and
let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King
Jesus
Shine your light and
let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King

CCLI Song # 4591782

Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan

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Affirmation of Faith *(Scots Confession)*

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory. Amen.

Scripture

1 Cor 1:18-25

The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out. It's written, I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head, I'll expose so-called experts as shams.

So where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Hasn't God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense? Since the world in all its fancy wisdom never had a clue when it came to knowing God, God in his wisdom took delight in using what the world considered stupid—*preaching*,

of all things!—to bring those who trust him into the way of salvation.

While Jews clamor for miraculous demonstrations and Greeks go in for philosophical wisdom, we go right on proclaiming Christ, the Crucified. Jews treat this like an *anti*-miracle—and Greeks pass it off as absurd. But to us who are personally called by God himself—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God’s ultimate miracle and wisdom all wrapped up in one. Human wisdom is so cheap, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can’t begin to compete with God’s “weakness.”

John 2:13-22

When the Passover Feast, celebrated each spring by the Jews, was about to take place, Jesus traveled up to Jerusalem. He found the Temple teeming with people selling cattle and sheep and doves. The loan sharks were also there in full strength.

Jesus put together a whip out of strips of leather and chased them out of the Temple, stampeding the sheep and cattle, upending the tables of the loan sharks, spilling coins left and right. He told the dove merchants, “Get your things out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a shopping mall!” That’s when his disciples remembered the Scripture, “Zeal for your house consumes me.”

But the Jews were upset. They asked, “What credentials can you present to justify this?” Jesus answered, “Tear down

this Temple and in three days I’ll put it back together.”

They were indignant: “It took forty-six years to build this Temple, and you’re going to rebuild it in three days?” But Jesus was talking about his body as the Temple. Later, after he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this. They then put two and two together and believed both what was written in Scripture and what Jesus had said.

Sermon

The Real Holy Wisdom
Pastor Riz



Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

Verse 1

Be Thou my vision
O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me
Save that thou art
Thou my best thought
By day or by night
Waking or sleeping
Thy presence my light

Verse 2

Be thou my wisdom
And thou my true Word
I ever with thee and
Thou with me Lord
Thou my soul’s shelter

And thou my high tower
Raise thou me heaven-ward
O Power of my power

Verse 3

Riches I heed not
Nor vain empty praise
Thou mine inheritance
Now and always
Thou and thou only
First in my heart
High King of Heaven
My treasure thou art

Verse 4

High King of Heaven
My victory won
My I reach heaven's joys
O bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart
Whatever befall
Still be my vision
O ruler of all

CCLI Song # 30639

Public Domain

Eleanor Henrietta Hull | Mary Elizabeth
Byrne

Morning 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. Lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Offering Our Lives & Gifts to God

Special Music-

Holy, Holy, Holy
(organ instrumental)

Prayer of Dedication

God of Grace, multiply these tithes and offerings so that this church's ministry and mission radically changes lives and create eyes to see the wisdom of your ways. We pray that these gifts may help all of your children build a temple within their own body that brings honor and praise to you. In the name of Jesus who lived, died and rose again for us, we pray. Amen.

Benediction

Go now, with God's foolishness and weakness as your only wisdom and strength.

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

So as you go, lift up the broken hearted and stand with the least. Love God with your whole lives and love neighbor as yourself.

We proclaim Christ crucified, and seek riches only in the following of God's Word and in outdoing one another in love.

And may God's just demands be your nourishment & delight.

May Christ be the power and wisdom of God to you.

And may the Holy Spirit keep you close on your Lenten journey.

We go in the wisdom of God, to love and serve. Amen.