# Carmel Presbyterian Church Fourth Sunday in Lent Matthew 25: Building Vital Congregations Sunday March 27, 2022



Prodigal Son, in the Galway Cathedral, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

### Order of Worship\*

\* Please stand, as able.

Congregation voices **Bold** responses.

Greeting and Announcements – Pastor Peter

Prelude

Prelude on New Britain (Amazing Grace)

Dale Wood

#### \* Call to Worship (Spoken responsively) -

We have come this day to learn about what God expects of us.

Sometimes we really don't want to know what God wants. We are afraid to make the commitments God seeks.

God is persistent. God will not let us off the hook so easily.

But we have failed so many times in the past. How can we possibly serve now?

Open your hearts to receive forgiveness and healing. Listen to God. Be ready to work with God for hope, peace, justice, and love.

Be with us, Lord. Help us to turn around, to see you, to serve you, to witness to your Love. Amen. Come, let us worship.

\* Opening Hymn 293

"This Is My Father's World"

TERRA BEATA

Call to Confession -

#### Prayer of Confession (In unison) -

Loving God: we come before you knowing that you love us completely. With this knowledge, we confess to you our wrongdoings. Forgive us, Holy One, when we stray from your ways; when we hurt one another; when we ignore the needs of others; when we resist your guidance in our lives. Gracious God, accept our prayers and hold us in your love, that we may be the people you call us to be. In the name of Christ, we pray...

(A moment of silence for personal reflection & confession...)

Amen. Amen.

#### Assurance of Pardon (Spoken responsively) –

Friends: hear the good news of the gospel. The Lord forgives our sins and washes away our guilt. Brothers and sisters, "Be glad in the Lord and rejoice,"

For our hearts have been made right with God! Thanks be to God.

\* Gloria Patri – Hymn 579

"Glory Be to the Father"

Henry W. Greatorex

#### \* Passing of the Peace (Spoken responsively) -

In Christ, everything is made new; we become a new creation.

In this Spirit, let us greet one another with the peace of Christ and see Christ's presence in each other.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

#### Peace be with you!

(Remaining in your pew, greet one another, sharing God's peace now and throughout the week.)

#### Children's Message -

(Following the Children's Message, children third-grade and below are invited to depart for Children's Worship downstairs in Carmel Hall.)

#### Unison Prayer for Illumination (In unison) –

Almighty God: you have welcomed us here today. Open our ears to your word. Open our hearts to the movement of your Spirit. Open our hands to receive your grace and to serve your people. Amen.

#### Old Testament Reading —

The Old Testament lectionary reading is Joshua, chapter 5, verses 9-12. The Israelites keep Passover at Gilgal; God rolls away their disgrace. Listen now for the Word of God to you!

Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." So the place was called Gilgal, as it is today.

The Israelites camped in Gilgal. They celebrated Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the plains of Jericho. On the very next day after Passover, they ate food produced in the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. The manna stopped on that next day, when they ate food produced in the land. There was no longer any manna for the Israelites. So that year they ate the crops of the land of Canaan.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

\* Hymn 184 "How Blest Are Those" ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN (From the lectionary Psalm 32: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven; be glad, rejoice in the Lord.)

#### New Testament Reading -

Our second reading from the lectionary is Second Corinthians, chapter 5, verses 16-21. In Christ there is a new creation; everything old has passed away. Listen now for the Word of God to you!

So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation.

So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!" God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### New Testament Gospel Reading -

The gospel reading from the lectionary is Luke, chapter 15, verses 1-3 and verses 11-32. The parable of the Prodigal Son; he was lost and has been found; occasions for celebration. Listen now for the Word of God to you!

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Jesus told them this parable: ....

.... "A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

"When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands." So he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, 'Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.' Then the older son was furious and didn't want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, 'Look, I've served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you've never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.' Then his father said, 'Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Feel Joy in Your Gut!" Pastor Peter

\* Hymn 356 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" NETTLETON

Sharing Joys and Concerns – Pastor Peter

Prayers of Thanksgiving and intercession & The Lord's Prayer (using 'debts' and 'debtors') - Pastor Peter

#### Invitation to the Offering – Pastor Peter

(Our hearts are open, and our ministries are continuing seven days a week. Your contribution or pledge payment sustains our presence as the church to the community—both local and global. Please place your offering in the collection plate at the back of the sanctuary, give online, or mail your offering envelope to the church office.)

#### Offertory

"I Will Arise" arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw Sanctuary Choir

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms, In the arms of my dear Saviour, Oh! there are ten thousand charms.

Teach me some melodious sonnet Sung by flaming tongues above, Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Come, thou fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace, Streams of mercy never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms, In the arms of my dear Saviour, Oh! there are ten thousand charms.

#### \* Prayer of Dedication of Time, Gifts, and Tithes -

Holy One, you provide for us in all ways and at all times. We offer these gifts to you, asking for your blessing upon them, that they bring comfort and healing to your children around the globe. We offer our lives to you, asking for your blessing upon us, that we might be faithful to you, and to one another. In your precious and holy name, we pray. Amen.

<sup>\*</sup> Doxology 592 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Genevan Psalter

#### \* Charge and Benediction -

Go in peace to be ambassadors for Christ. Go in forgiveness to be instruments of the love of Christ, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Chimes – (You may sit in silent, reflective prayer as the worship leaders recess.)

Postlude Prelude in D minor J. S. Bach

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#### **Announcements**

Guests: You Are Welcome Here

WE CORDIALLY WELCOME THOSE WHO ARE VISITING TODAY. We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, mission, and programs; we are happy to share our ministry with you. We'd like to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to a person nearby and be sure to join us downstairs in Carmel Hall for refreshments and conversation after worship! We hope your worship experience is meaningful and you will gather with us again soon. Sign our guest book at the sanctuary entrance (or share your email/contact information in the offering plate for a weekly email of future worship and activities). We invite you to speak with the Pastor if you are interested in membership. A Virtual Fellowship Time is also possible on Zoom. And, restrooms are located down the long hallway just past the Church Office in the Education Building. Welcome!

**THE FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY** this morning glorify God and God's good creation.

**EASTER FLOWER AND MUSIC MEMORIALS DUE APRIL 10<sup>th</sup>** – If you wish to contribute to the Easter Flowers and/or Easter Music (Memorials or In Honor of), please complete the information on the order sheet available in the Church Office. Both dedications of flowers and music enhance our Easter Worship service and recognition will be printed in the bulletin. Questions: please contact Deb Gates (215-887-1852) on the flower contributions and Abby Palmisano (*215-887-1074*, *Ext.3*) on the music contributions.

TODAY IS MATTHEW 25: BUILDING VITAL CONGREGATIONS SUNDAY! – On the Presbyterian Church (USA) national calendar, it is "Matthew 25: Building Vital Congregations Sunday". Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Building congregational vitality is one of the three focuses of the Matthew 25 invitation. It challenges congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with their community as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

**EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR THOSE FLEEING VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE** – Support the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s **emergency relief for those fleeing violence in Ukraine**. The Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, has produced the largest refugee crisis in Europe this century. In less than a week, 2 million residents – mostly women and children – fled their homes. Ukrainians face urgent needs for medical care and basic needs like food, water, and fuel. Your donation at this crucial moment can help save lives. **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** has a specially designated account to supplement the **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** 

offering to enable a significant response for humanitarian efforts to assist international refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Please drop a check marked "Ukraine22" in the offering plate or make your direct donation via www.pcusa.org/ukraine22. Your faithful giving is deeply appreciated.

GOOD HAPPENS WHEN YOU DONATE TO OGHS! – One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the way Presbyterians come together each year. The gifts are shared among Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and a group of live chickens as a way to fight poverty. Special envelopes are in the pews and on the table in the back of the Sanctuary near the offering plate.

**CARMEL SEEKS PART-TIME BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR** – The Carmel Personnel Committee seeks applicants for the part-time Business Administrator position, who will be responsible for administrating the church finances. Accounting or bookkeeping skills are necessary for this 6 hour per week position. Applicants cannot be Carmel members. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume by email to: <a href="mailto:carmelpcjobs@presbycarmel.org">carmelpcjobs@presbycarmel.org</a>. The Church Office will provide a position description – call 215-887-1074.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX** – Lenten devotionals: Family devotional bags, "**Reflections on the Heart**," with a Lenten calendar and family activities, and a separate Adult devotional guide, "**Full to the Brim**," are available on the table in the Narthex. Take one or more home to use during Lent. Provided by the Christian Education Committee.

**ZOOM ADULT STUDY WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT: PRACTICE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES!** – Join the Lenten adult group with Pastor Peter as we *Practice Spiritual Disciplines* each Wednesday in Lent—through Wednesday, April 6—on ZOOM from 7:30-9:00 pm. God's central invitation to followers of Jesus is to draw near to God in Christ and to allow God, through the Holy Spirit, to transform us into Christ's image. **Christian spiritual disciplines and spiritual practices** are ways in which we do that. Spiritual practices are seen as those things Jesus did, said, or embodied; we as Jesus' followers try to do so as well. Pick up *Practice Spiritual Disciplines: An Adult Reflection Booklet* available now in the Church Office. Uncomplicate and disentangle your life that you might love God and neighbor in fresh new ways! This week's session is "**Unplug**".



The Schedule for Holy Week: April 10-17

#### Passion/Palm Sunday, April 10 at 10:00 am

**Passion/Palm Sunday** begins **Holy Week**, a time in the church year when we remember how Christ gave his life in love for the world. As this service opens, the crowd waves palm branches, wanting to crown Jesus as king. But as the story of the passion unfolds, their shouts of praise turn to demands for his crucifixion; Jesus receives a crown of thorns as he is handed over to be mocked and killed. Come and wave your palm branch in the procession of the palms!

#### Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 6:30 pm

**Maundy Thursday** begins the **Three Days** (or **Triduum**), remembering the new commandment that Christ gave us in word and deed as he taught us how to love one another, washing our feet as a servant. We also

celebrate the Lord's Supper, remembering the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death. Activities begin with a gathering in Carmel Hall at 6:30 pm for a simple meal of soup, rolls, and sweets (with meal-to-go available for those choosing not to gather at this time). **Communion** will follow in the Sanctuary at 7:15 pm.

#### Good Friday Tenebrae Service, April 15 at 7:30 pm

**Good Friday** is the day we remember Jesus' crucifixion. We will follow a **Tenebrae Service** to commemorate the time Jesus hung on the cross. It is an especially important time to pray for the church and the world for whom Christ gave his life. Nursery care will be available upon request made by April 13 at noon at the Church Office.

#### Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day, April 17 at 7:30 am and 10:00 am

The festival of the *Resurrection of the Lord* (or *Easter Sunday*) is the center of the Christian year. Two worship possibilities are offered: an *Early Dawn Service* with *Communion* will be held in the Memorial Garden at 7:30 am followed by coffee and baked goods. *Easter Day Sanctuary Worship* will be at 10:00 am with all the traditional music and Communion in the Sanctuary. There will be no coffee hour following the service to allow for all Carmel members to enjoy festivities with family and friends. On this occasion, the church joyfully proclaims the good news that is at the very heart of the gospel: that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP EACH SUNDAY IN CARMEL HALL** – **Coffee Hour Fellowship** is weekly downstairs in Carmel Hall following Sunday worship. Join us for coffee/tea, baked goods, and good conversation with fellow members and friends.

CARMEL IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE FOR THE YOUNG MEMBERS of our congregation by offering Nursery Care and Children's Worship (third grade and below) during the Sunday 10:00 am worship service. They are being led by two of our committed and dedicated volunteers, Marleen Heintz for Nursery Care and Melissa MacFarland for Children's Worship. At this time, we request that if you desire nursery care for your child during Sunday worship, please call the Church Office by Friday noon, so that the nursery is staffed. Children's Worship will meet in Carmel Hall for larger spacing and does not require reserving ahead. Children from Grades K-3 leave the Sanctuary after the Children's Message. We welcome our young families, either in person or in virtual worship. Any questions may be addressed to Janet Simon, Christian Education Committee chair; Marleen or Melissa.

**CARMEL YOUTH GROUPS OASIS AND REFUGE & CONFIRMATION CLASS NOTES: Refuge** will meet on designated Wednesday nights, 6:30-7:30 pm, in person, in Carmel Hall and welcomes all in grades 3-8. Safety protocols will be followed with dinner and a rotating activity each week: service or craft project, Bible lesson, gym or game room activity, and monthly special activities. **Oasis** meets designated Sundays, at 7:00 pm in the Loft and welcomes all in grades 9-12. Join in the Fellowship and, as always, friends are welcome. The **Confirmation Group** meets Sundays at 9:00 am in the Chapel.

**WONDER "WHAT'S GOING ON?" CHECK OUT CARMEL'S WEBSITE!** Explore the wealth of information at www.presbycarmel.org. Easily find links for the current Livestream worship, past services, the daily lectionary, or to send a prayer request or make a financial donation—and not to miss the latest on the Carmel Calendar. Clicking on the upper circular church photo will always bring you back to the Home Page.

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY IN WORSHIP; CELEBRATE COMMUNION THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH! Live Streaming Worship continues on YouTube, via Zoom on the phone, and on Zoom for virtual fellowship

following worship for those unable to attend in-person worship due to health comfort levels or travel situations.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SUPPLIES, HEARING DEVICES, LARGE PRINT BIBLES, AND ORDERS OF SERVICE are available from the Ushers.

**SIGN-UP TO HELP WITH WORSHIP – EACH SUNDAY WE HAVE** several spots you can assist. We are not all we can be without you sharing your gifts as a volunteer! Speak with a pastor or sign up online here: https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/904094ca8a62aa6f49-worship

**WORSHIPING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19** – Masking in the building is now optional in accordance with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's revised guidelines. Those whose health is compromised should consult their healthcare provider as to whether to continue wearing a mask. Visitors and members are welcome to wear a mask if they wish. Masking requirements will automatically fluctuate accordingly as Montgomery County moves between the various CDC levels of low, medium, and high, with masks only required when at the high level. Members will be notified as levels change and updated signs will be placed on the front door of the church.

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#### Participating in Worship this Morning (and clergy)

Peter Sulyok, Transitional Senior Pastor
James D. Eby, Pastor Emeritus
Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music
David Rice, Liturgist
The Sanctuary Choir
Beth Cherry and Linda MacFarland, Ushers/Greeters
Beth Cherry and Linda MacFarland, Shepherds
Walt Newman, Chancel Preparation and Emergency Procedure (CPEP) Member
Gary Moll, Jay Raulinaitis, and Kerri Strike-Stahller, Live-Streaming Operators
Melissa Deacon, Hosting Coffee & Fellowship

#### Welcome to Sunday Morning Worship (Also, live-streamed at 10:00 am)

YouTube (Carmel Presbyterian Church Glenside) at
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KnjuJryWjVkrJljIDvsRw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KnjuJryWjVkrJljIDvsRw</a>

Those without Internet access may phone in via the Zoom phone link:
<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8428511409">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8428511409</a>

and Meeting ID: 842 851 1409

"Virtual Fellowship Time" may be accessed on Zoom only after the service ends.

#### **Carmel Presbyterian Church**

100 Edge Hill Road Glenside, PA 19038 215-887-1074 www.presbycarmel.org

## This Is My Father's World

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TERRA BEATA SMD



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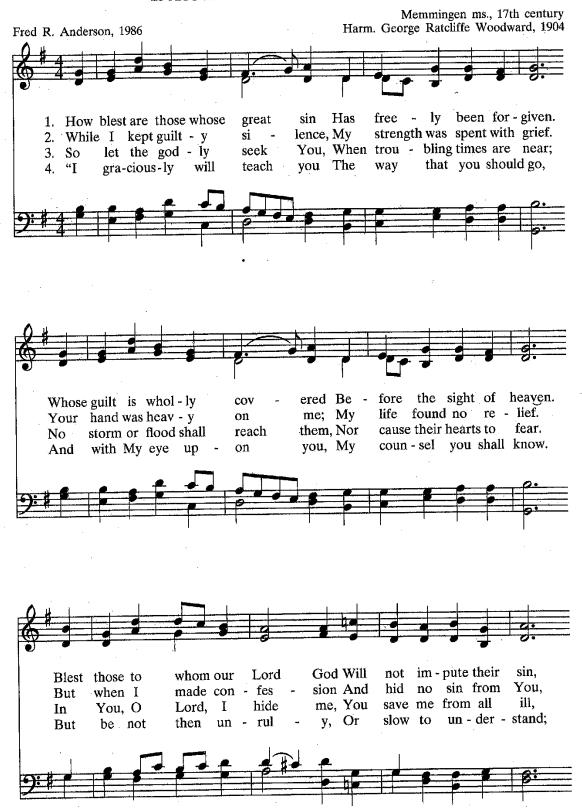
# Glory Be to the Father

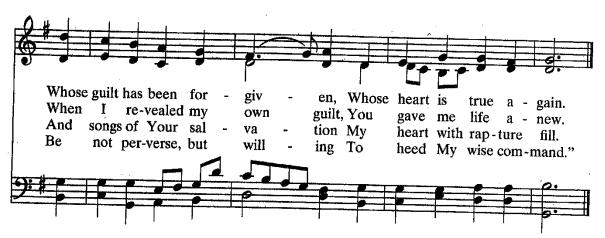


## 184

## How Blest Are Those

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN 7.6.7.6 D





5. The sorrows of the wicked In number shall abound,
But those who trust our own God Great mercy shall surround.

Then in the Lord be joyful, In song lift up your voice; Be glad in God, you righteous; Rejoice, O saints, rejoice.

# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 356

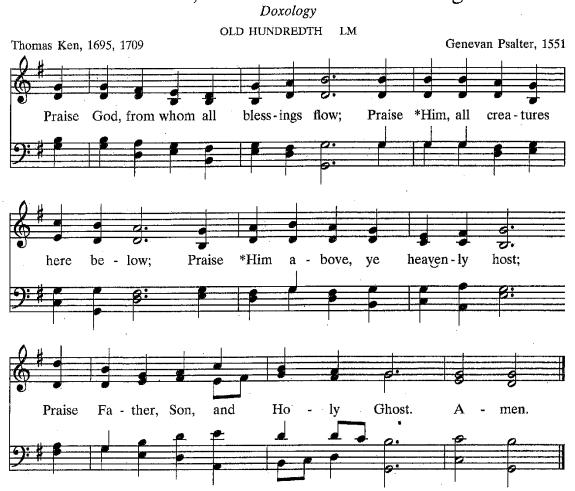
Robert Robinson, c. 1758

- Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
   Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
   Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
   Call for songs of loudest praise.
   Teach me some melodious sonnet,
   Sung by flaming tongues above;
   Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
   Mount of God's unchanging love!
- 2. Here I raise my Ebenezer,
  Hither by Thy help I'm come;
  And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
  Safely to arrive at home.

Tune: NETTLETON, opposite.

- Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.
- 3. O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be!
  Let that grace now, like a fetter,
  Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
  Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
  Prone to leave the God I love;
  Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
  Seal it for Thy courts above.

# 592 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



\* Or "God."

# God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

