

MORNINGSIDE-HIGH PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Warmly welcomes everyone to this online audio worship service!
March 29, 2020

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude, Welcome & Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

One: When we weep,

All: Jesus weeps with us.

One: When we suffer,

All: Jesus suffers with us.

One: When we despair,

All: Jesus is the one who holds us up.

One: Worthy of hope is our Lord.

All: This is why we come to worship. So let us praise our God together.

Opening Hymn - How great is our God

Verse 1

The splendor of the King,
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice,
Let all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light,
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice,
And trembles at His voice.

Chorus

How great is our God!
Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great,
How great is our God!

Verse 2

From age to age he stands
And time is in His hands;
Beginning and the end,
Beginning and the end.
The godhead, three in one
Father, Spirit, Son
The lion and the lamb,
The lion and the lamb.

Chorus

How great is our God!
Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great,
How great is our God!

(3x) Bridge

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing, how great is our God!

Words and Music Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, and Ed Cash

Lenten Liturgy

One: God set the prophet down in a valley of dry bones

**Many: asking, “Can these bones live?”
commanding, “Hear the word of the Lord,”
promising, “I will put my spirit in you, you shall live.”**

One: Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend

**Many: hearing the grief, “Lord, if you had been here...”
knowing the doubt, “Could not he...?”
commanding life out of death, “Lazarus, come out!”**

One: We are tempted by hopelessness and despair

**Many: in our own pain, at the world’s brokenness, saying,
“Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost.”**

One: Lord, have mercy

Many: Christ, have mercy

One: Lord, have mercy

Let us pray:

**Creator God,
we wait for you and in your word we hope.
For with you is steadfast love
and great power to redeem.
Help us to trust you and to share your resurrection life
with all people and the whole creation.
So may all be raised from despair to hope,
from darkness to light, from death to life;
through Jesus Christ,
who is the resurrection and the life. Amen.**

Words of Assurance & Peace of Christ

Friends, remember the promise Apostle Paul declares...

One: May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Hymn - What a friend we have in Jesus

Verse 1

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.
Oh what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Verse 2

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged: take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness: take it to the Lord in prayer.

Verse 3

Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge: take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

Words by Joseph Scriven and Music by Crozat Converse

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Psalm 130:1-7 (The Message)

1-2 Help, GOD—the bottom has fallen out of my life!

Master, hear my cry for help!

Listen hard! Open your ears!

Listen to my cries for mercy.

3-4 If you, GOD, kept records on wrongdoings,
who would stand a chance?

**As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit,
and that's why you're worshiped.**

5-6 I pray to GOD—my life a prayer—
and wait for what he'll say and do.

**My life's on the line before God, my Lord,
waiting and watching till morning,
waiting and watching till morning.**

7-8 O Israel, wait and watch for GOD—
**with God's arrival comes love,
with God's arrival comes generous redemption.**

Reader: May God help our understanding.

Hymn - The Steadfast Love of the Lord (Lamentations 3:21-26, 31-33, 40)

Refrain

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
Your mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning; new every morning
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord,
Great is your faithfulness!

Verse 1

You, Lord, are my portion, says my soul;
Therefore I will hope in you.

Verse 2

You, Lord, are good to those who wait for you
To the soul that seeks you;
It is good that we should wait quietly
For the salvation of the Lord.

Refrain

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
Your mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning; new every morning
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord,
Great is your faithfulness!

Verse 3

The Lord will not cast off forever
But will have compassion.
For God does not willingly afflict
Or grieve the righteous ones.

Refrain

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
Your mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning; new every morning
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord,
Great is your faithfulness!

Verse 4

So let us examine all our ways,
And return to the Lord.
Let us lift up our hearts and hands
To God in heaven.

Refrain

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
Your mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning; new every morning
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord, Great is your faithfulness! *Words and Music by Edith McNeill*

Scripture Reading – John 11:17-44 (NRSV)

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ ²³Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ ²⁴Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ ²⁵Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ²⁷She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ ³⁷But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’ [she knows the smell of death] ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice [primal cry], ‘Lazarus, come out!’ ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC - *“Who but Jesus”* by Laura Story

MESSAGE New Life despite Death

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn **Amazing Grace (My chains are gone)**

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind
But now I see.

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Refrain

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me.
And like a flood, his mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace.

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Verse 4

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Refrain

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me.
And like a flood, his mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace.

Verse 5

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Words and Music by Billy James Foote

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession and Lord's Prayer

*Please note that during the prayers of intercession,
there will be pauses for silent prayer.*

Let us pray.

... We offer all that we are and all that we hope for through Jesus Christ
who taught us to pray together as his people:

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.

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

WE GO INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE

Hymn - O Love that wilt not let me go

Verse 1

O Love that wilt not let me go
I rest my weary soul to thee.
I give thee back the life I owe
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

Verse 2

O Light that followest all my way
I yield my flickering torch to thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray
That in thy sunshine's blaze, its day
May brighter, fairer be.

Verse 3

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain
And feel the promise is not in vain
That morn shall tearless be.

Verse 4

O Cross that liftest up my head
I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust life's glory dead
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Words and Music by George Matheson

Benediction

Three-Fold Choral Amen

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude