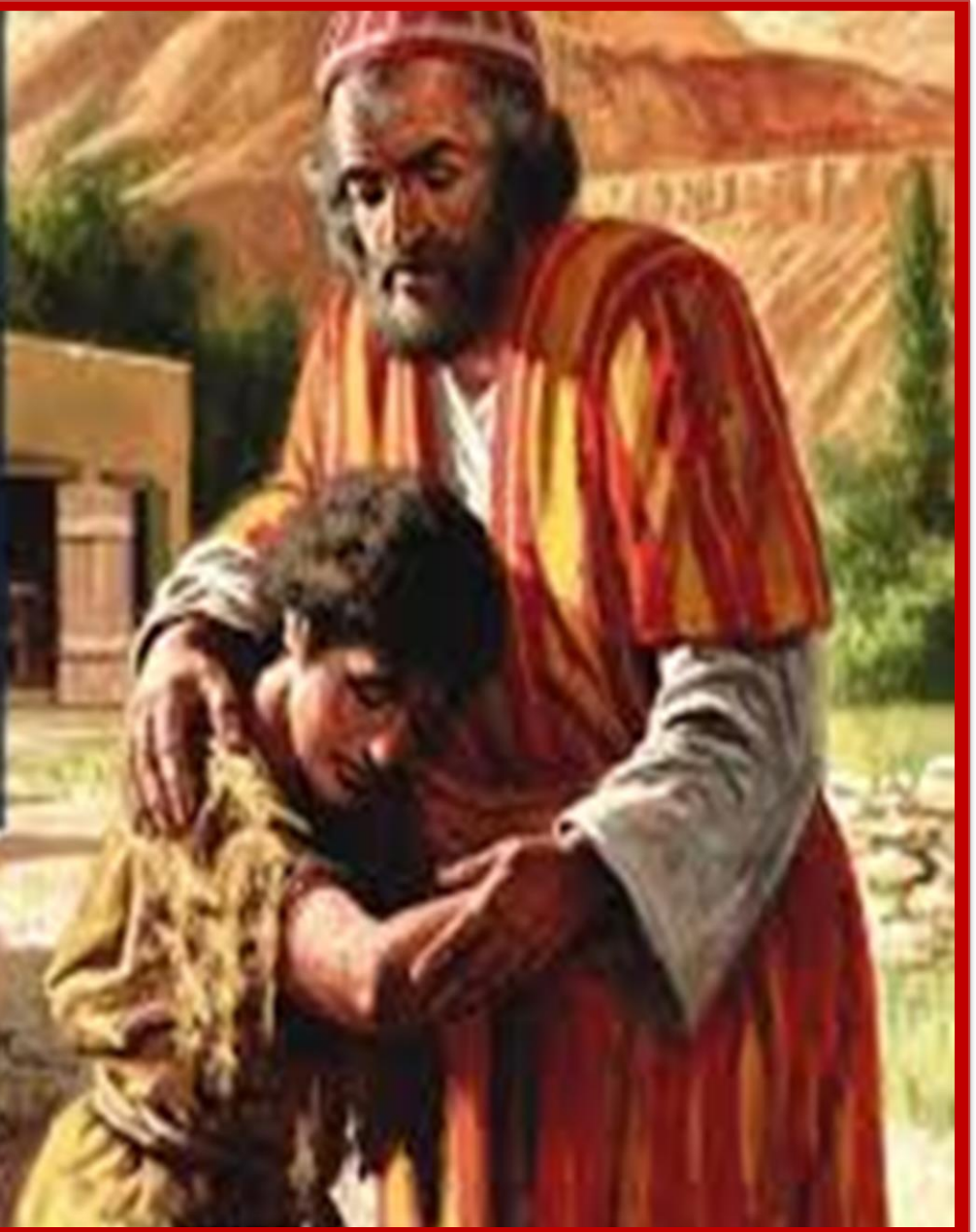


"FOR THIS
SON OF
MINE WAS
DEAD AND IS
ALIVE
AGAIN; HE
WAS LOST
AND IS
FOUND."

Luke 15:24



Sunday, March 30, 2025

Sunday
Virtual Worship

SUNDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Sunday, March 30, 2025

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Preludio*” from Anna Magdalena Notebook J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 2)

Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Leader: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

People: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Leader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

People: Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

***HYMN 455** *“All Creatures of Our God and King”*

PRAYER of the DAY (In unison)

Gracious God, in order that the children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world. As Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in all truth and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CALL to CONFESSION

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God’s grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER of CONFESSION (In unison)

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste to the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

SINGING 572 *“Lord, Have Mercy upon Us”*

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

***SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST**

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Two Chorales from St. John Passion” J. S. Bach

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION (In unison)

God of abundant life, your grace is our daily bread. Nourish us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit, so that we may grow in faith and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

SERMON

“Making Up Is Hard to Do”

Pastor Myles Thompson

AFFIRMATION of FAITH (In unison, The Nicene Creed, 381 AD)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***HYMN 285**

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

INVITATION to OFFERING

(Those joining us online may use our online giving platform at hocpc.org/give)

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

***PRAYER of DEDICATION** (In unison)

Gracious God, you give to us out of your abundance. For the material gifts and the spiritual gifts you give us, we thank you. We dedicate these gifts of time and talents and tithes to you and ask that you continue to lead us as we use these gifts to join your work in this community. Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE 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. 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 398**

"There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

Have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called— that you might inherit a blessing.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"March"

J. S. Bach



2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake, God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3 So he told them this parable: ¹¹ Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”