

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING (*responsive*)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

The Minister continues and then says:

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever say to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Minister continues and says:

According to his commandment:

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

The Minister continues and says:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS AND COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

Eternal God, as you fed your people in the wilderness with unexpected food, so you feed us at this table with a simple loaf and cup. Here you transform us, by the working of your wondrous love, to be Christ's body in the world. So send us out into your broken and beautiful world to bear the good news of hope and joy for all. Amen

◇HYMN 85

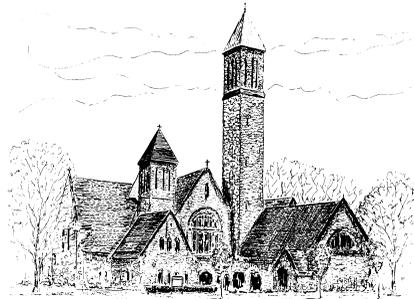
“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Wondrous Love

◇CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings





First Presbyterian Church

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The mission of historic First Church is to bring diverse people of metropolitan Buffalo together to follow Jesus Christ through worshiping God, fostering spiritual growth, and serving the community.

ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5, 2014

*Wherever ◇ appears, you are asked to stand if you are able to do so.
Text in **bold print** indicates congregational responses.*

◇CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Blow the trumpet in Zion! Sound the alarm on the holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near.

Return to the Lord with all your heart!

**The Lord our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

◇PRAYER OF THE DAY (*responsive*)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:

God of our salvation, we long to be reconciled to you. Help us to clear away and obstacle that prevents us from accepting the grace of Christ. No matter what we face in the this life, increase in us knowledge and patience, kindness and holiness of spirit, genuine love and truthful speech, so that, by the power of God at work in us, we may live even as we are dying and rejoice even in our sorrows. Though it may seem that we have nothing, if we are reconciled to you, we possess everything, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

◇LITANY OF PENITENCE (*responsive*)

Let us pray.

Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives, **we confess to you, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people, **we confess to you, O God.**

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, **we confess to you, O God.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, **we confess to you, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, **we confess to you, O God.**

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, **accept our repentance, O God.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, **accept our repentance, O God.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **accept our repentance, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen

◇HYMN 83 “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High” *Deo Gracias*

SHARING OF THE MEAL

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 *OT pages 846-847*

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 *NT pages 5-6*

MEDITATION *Rev. Dr. Philip S. Gittings*

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

How are you righteous before God?

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God’s commandments, of never having kept any of them, and of still being inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without any merit of my own, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, and as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is accept this gift with a believing heart. (*adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism*)