

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

**March 3, 2024, at 10:00am**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**GATHERING**

**PRESERVICE MUSIC**

*“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”*  
*“Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”*  
*“I Danced in the Morning”*  
*“This Is the Day”*  
*“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”*  
*“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”*  
*“Take Time to Be Holy”*  
*“Where the Spirit of the Lord Is”*

**WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS/ PRAYER REQUESTS**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**CHIMES**

**PRELUDE**

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”* (DeCou)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 19:1–4

Heaven is declaring God’s glory; the sky is proclaiming God’s handiwork.

**One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known.**

There is no speech; there are no words; their voices cannot be heard by us.

**Yet their sound extends throughout the world; their words reach the ends of the earth!**

**\*OPENING HYMN #307**

*“God of Grace and God of Glory”* (Hughes)

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly; we are still weak. In the cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace. We confess our sins, trusting in God’s wisdom and strength rather than our own.

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, how fickle we are; we sin against you without even knowing it. Clear us, we pray, of any unknown sin, and save us from willfully ignoring your way. Let your commandments rule and guide us. Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything except you; keep us faithful. Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors. Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness, rather than words that belittle or destroy. Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness. Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power, for you are the God who made us, led us out of slavery, and has brought us into the community of faith. Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

(Please take a moment for silent confession.)

## **\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Siblings, in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness with God and with one another!

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God.**

**\*HYMN #582**            *“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”* (Vasile)

## **\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Please exchange these words with your neighbors: “The peace of the Lord be with you.” “And also with you.”

## **REFLECTION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES**

Reverend Rose McCurdy

## **NEW MEMBER RECEPTION**

## **ENSEMBLE CHOIR**

*“Hope of the World”* (Arr. Larson)

## **THE WORD**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God of Glory, we cannot hear the heavens proclaim your handiwork, though the speech of the skies must be magnificent. We cannot hear what day and night are singing about you, though their song must be both bright and deep. Yet, somehow you are made known to us through our own foolish proclamation. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that your Word can

be heard in our words. Open our ears to what you are saying to us today, we pray; and perhaps we may also hear echoes of your glory in the broad firmament above. **Amen.**

## **READINGS FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**FIRST READING**

Psalm 19

**SECOND READING**

Matthew 1:18-25

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

“I believe what?...Was Conceived By the Holy Spirit”

Reverend Rose McCurdy

**\*HYMN #310**

*“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”* (Williams)

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*The Apostles’ Creed*

**I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right...

...We pray as you taught us,

**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.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

### RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

### PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

#### SENDING

\***CLOSING HYMN #450**

*“Be Thou My Vision”* (Irish Ballad)

(March Hymn of the Month)

\***BENEDICTION**

\***POSTLUDE**

*“Are You Washed in the Blood?”*

\*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.

Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.

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