

FONDREN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PC(USA)



The Betrayal of Christ

Giuseppe Cesari

Early 17th Century, Italian

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

July 7, 2019

14TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Welcome to Fondren Presbyterian Church! We're so glad you're with us this morning for worship and fellowship. If you're a first-time visitor, welcome to our church home. If you're a return visitor, welcome back! Fondren is an inclusive faith community where everyone is welcome to come and grow in Christ. If you would like to learn more about Fondren, please seek out an usher or greeter following worship.

Again, welcome! We hope this time of worship will renew and uplift your spirit.

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Bold type indicates a unison response.

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Rob Lowry

PRELUDE

“Prelude on ANGEL'S STORY”

Brian Glyncannon

WE LIFT UP OUR HEARTS

Inez Dunlap

I lift my eyes up to the hills, from where does my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

We look not to the mountains or valleys, even heaven or earth,

For God is found among us.

Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name,

God is here among us.

Come, let us worship the God of Creation, the God of People, the God of Community.

Let us worship together in faith.

*HYMN #331 *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand* NATIONAL HYMN

*LITANY FOR THE NATION¹ (*Responsive*)

Mighty God: the earth is yours and the nations are your people. Take away our pride and bring to mind your goodness, so that, living together in this land, we may enjoy your gifts and be thankful.

Amen.

For clouded mountains, fields and woodlands; for shoreline and running streams; for all that makes our nation good and lovely;

We thank you, God.

For farms and villages where food is gathered to feed our people;

We thank you, God.

For cities where people talk and work together in factories, shops, and schools to shape those things we need for living;

We thank you, God.

For explorers, planners, civic leaders, for prophets who speak out and for silent faithful people; for all who love our land and guard our freedom;

We thank you, God.

For vision to see your purpose hidden in our nation's history, and courage to seek it in love given and received;

We thank you, God.

O God: your justice is like rock, and your mercy like pure flowing water.

Judge and forgive us. If we have turned from you, return us to your way; for without you we are a lost people.

Amen.

From brassy patriotism and blind trust in power;

Deliver us, O God.

From public deceptions that weaken trust; from self-seeking in high political places;

Deliver us, O God.

¹ From “The Wideness of God's Mercy: Litanies to Enlarge our Prayer” ed. Jeffrey W. Rothorn

From divisions among us of class or race; from wealth that will not share, and poverty that feeds on the food of bitterness;

Deliver us, O God.

From neglecting rights; from overlooking the hurt, the imprisoned, and the needy among us;

Deliver us, O God.

From a lack of concern for other lands and peoples; from narrowness of national purpose; from failure to welcome the peace you promise on earth;

Deliver us, O God.

Eternal God: before you nations rise and fall; they grow strong or wither by your design. Help us to repent of our country's wrong, and to choose your right in reunion and renewal.

Amen.

Give us a glimpse of the Holy City you are bringing to earth, where death and pain and crying will be gone away, and nations will gather in the light of your presence.

Great God, renew this nation.

Teach us peace, so that we may plow up battlefields and pound weapons into building tools, and learn to talk across old boundaries as brothers and sisters in your love.

Great God, renew this nation.

Talk sense to us, so that we may wisely end all prejudice, and may put a stop to cruelty, which divides and wounds the human family.

Great God, renew this nation.

Draw us together as one people who do your will, so that our land may be a light to nations, leading the way to your promised kingdom which is coming among us.

Great God, renew this nation.

Great God, eternal Lord: long years ago you gave our ancestors this land as a home for the free. Show us there is no law or liberty apart from you; and let us serve you modestly, as devoted people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which passes all understanding, be with you all.

And also with you.

Please turn to those nearby and extend a hand of friendship and a word of greeting.

Children are invited to join volunteers in the back of the church to go upstairs to the Children's Pray-ground balcony.

To learn more about our Pray-ground, see Worship Notes.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 26:47-50, 27:1-9

ANTHEM

Jesus Took the Cup

THE LICHTBOB'S LASSIE

arr. Hal Hopson

Jesus took the bread, He took the bread and blest it,
Then gave it to His disciples, He gave it to them saying:

“Take and eat this bread.

This bread is my own body. Do this and remember me and eat.”

Jesus took the cup, He took the cup, gave thanks,
Then gave it to His disciples, He gave it to them saying:

“Take and drink this cup.

This cup is my own blood. Do this and remember me and drink.”

Thanks to God forever.

(Paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 11:24-26)

SERMON

“The Premise of the Question”

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN # 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH²

When nation rises against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, the end is not violence: for there is a God of resilient, redeeming love, and the Brighter Purpose is at work in the shadows, and the darkness cannot smother it.

Lord, we believe, strengthen our timid faith.

When there are earthquakes, famines and pestilences and collisions among the stars, the end is not chaos: God the Creator of the heavens and the earth has not forsaken us, and the harmony will again break out and gather to hasten towards consummation.

Lord, we believe, strengthen our timid faith.

When believers are arrested and abused, dragged before kings and governors, the end is not injustice: the Holy Spirit is always with you in all your trials and travail, and words will be given to confound your adversaries and shake the gates of hell.

Lord, we believe, strengthen our timid faith.

When parents, brothers, sisters, relatives or friends, betray you even unto death, the end is not alienation: the crucified Christ will reconcile all things seen and unseen, and the glorious finale is much nearer than when you first believed.

Lord, we believe, strengthen our faith today and always.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

With This Cup and With This Bread

Ben Logan

*DOXOLOGY #607

OLD HUNDRETH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ all people here be-low.

Praise Holy Spirit ev-er-more;

Praise triune God whom we adore. A-men.

² Composed by the late Rev. Bruce Pewer, United Church of Australia.

WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

From the earliest days, the church has asked a question; did Judas receive Holy Communion from Jesus at the Last Supper?

Theologians from the earliest days of the church have argued that yes, he must have because to refuse him would have violated the very core of the Jesus event; grace given not to the deserving but despite our undeserving.

If Judas was deemed worthy of this meal by Christ himself, who among us can possibly be separated from this holy meal?

Christ invites not as the world does – through merit, position, power, or even good deeds. Christ invites as God does – with generosity, love, and grace that can never be earned.

So come to this table, friends.

We come to the table of joyful celebration and grace.

THE SURSUM CORDA

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 our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God of mercy and forgiveness...

Come to this table, friends.

We come to the table of joyful celebration and grace.

Now friends, because we believe let us be bold as we pray together the words Christ gave us saying:

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN #543

O, Christ, Surround Me

GREEN TYLER

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Let Praise Ring Forth

Edward Broughton

WORSHIP NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS TODAY Lisa Brown, Wes Brown, Hubby Saunders, Jay Woods (Ushers), Inez Dunlap (Liturgist), Jane Sanders (Communion Preparation), Carolyn Burch, Lynda Richards (Childcare).

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP Fondren welcomes children of all ages to participate in the worship service. During the passing of the peace, all children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to move with the adult volunteers to the pray-ground, the children's worship area in the balcony, where they can work and play with worship-related activities and games. An adult will bring all children back to the sanctuary during the offertory to rejoin their families for the remainder of the worship service. Parents, you are welcome to join us in the balcony any time—especially if you think it might make your child's transition smoother.

For parents and children who might be happier with a nursery, it is open to those from birth through age 3, and supervised by adult volunteers.

Anyone who has any questions or who wants to volunteer for pray-ground or nursery time, please contact Beverly Ray at 601.842.3415 or bray65@comcast.net.

GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS are available on the table at communion.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH THIS WEEK

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE meets today after worship in the Library.

AN ENNEAGRAM CLASS INTEREST MEETING will be held on Monday, July 8, at 7 PM in the Library. This will be an overview and a chance to see if the upcoming Enneagram class is for you.

LAST CHANCE TO DONATE toward Fondren's new pew Bibles. They will be updated this summer to the Common English Bible, the translation Rob uses each Sunday. If you would like to donate a Bible in memory or honor of someone special in your life, forms for donation are available on the table outside the church office. The suggested donation is \$12 for each Bible.

CONGREGATIONAL AND COMMUNITY CARE

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER Diane Blankenhorn, Carol Brasfield, Marilyn Brent (Jim Pitts's aunt), Edna Dreher, Sherry Henry (Linda Powell's sister), Yvonne Phillips (Carolyn White's friend), Mary Robinson, Elizabeth Sutton (Carolyn Burch's mother), and Stan Wilkinson.

TO ADD A NAME to the prayer list, please email or call the church office (office@fondrenpcusa.org or 601-982-3232). Unless otherwise instructed, names are included in the eNews and bulletin for four weeks.

FONDREN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

The Reverend Dr. Rob Lowry, Pastor/Head of Staff

The Reverend Dr. Rims Barber, Parish Associate

Dr. Nell Adams, Music Director

Jeff Hardy, Organist

Bonnie Bowley, Interim Administrative Assistant

Christel Howell, Interim Financial Administrator

Terry Longino, Sexton

Jeannette Blockman, Kitchen Assistant

