

Immanuel Presbyterian Church



Sanctuary Worship Service

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Communion Sunday

April 3, 2022

*Discovering and displaying Christ
in here and out there*

Celebration of the Lord's Day

(*Please stand as you are able)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Psalm 69

One: Save me, O God, for I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.

All: More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause. It is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that shame has covered my face.

One: It is zeal for your house that has consumed me; the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

All: Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

One: Draw near to me, redeem me, set me free because of my enemies.

*HYMN

Seek Ye First

No. 333

CALL TO CONFESSION

Psalm 51

One: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. In humility, let us confess our sin to God.

GUIDED PRAYER OF EXAMEN

One: Blessed are the poor in spirit.

Silent Reflection: Am I humble enough to acknowledge my total dependence on God? Am I able to admit that I don't have all the answers? Can I admit mistakes without blaming others?

One: Blessed are those who mourn.

Silent Reflection: Do I stop to examine my losses, or do I miss the opportunity to be closer to God? Do I take my broken promises to God? Do I turn to God when facing death or loss of a loved one?

One: Blessed are the meek.

Silent Reflection: *Do I align my desires with God's will? Do I serve my neighbors? Even the ungrateful ones? The people I don't like? Or the unlikeable? Am I able to affirm others rather than criticize them? Am I a good listener?*

One: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Silent Reflection: *Do I yearn for God's kingdom or for material goods? Do I work for the triumph of love, peace and justice? Am I hungry for God's Word and holy communion?*

One: Blessed are the merciful.

Silent Reflection: *Do I choose to forgive or do I hold a grudge? Do I forgive the unforgivable? Do I give others the benefit of the doubt? Am I sensitive to others' needs?*

One: Blessed are the pure of heart.

Silent Reflection: *Am I a person of integrity and sincerity? Am I honest about my own faults and failings? Do I do what is truly right or do I compromise because it's easier? Do I look for instant gratification? Do I keep myself pure in mind, body, and soul? Have I allowed a particular sin or vice to distract me from God?*

One: Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God.

Silent Reflection: *Am I a person of reconciliation, peace and mercy? Do I hold grudges or seek revenge? Am I at peace with myself, with my family, friends, and those with whom I live and work? Do I bring peace to my world?*

One: Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of justice

Silent Reflection: *Do I examine myself and my conduct in light of the Gospel call to be a disciple? Do I follow Christ's example and stand up for what is right? Am I only a Christian when it is convenient for me, or socially acceptable? Am I able to suffer in silence or am I always complaining about something?*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Christ sends us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Brothers and sisters, you are forgiven and accepted—be at peace.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SONG

Your Grace Finds Me

Myrin, Redman

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5: 10-12 NRSVue

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

One: The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of God endures forever.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

The Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven

SERMON

Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake

Rev. John C. Tittle

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

Broken

Martin, Berryman,
Buckland & Champion

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*HYMN

It is Well with My Soul

VILLE DU HAVRE

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain:

It is well
with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

Lord, hasten the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

Words by Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; music by Philip P. Bliss, 1876.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Participants:

Rev. Dr. John C. Tittle
Dr. Walter W. Schurr, Director of Music
Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation
Abby Tittle, Online Worship Service Producer
Carl Cherry, vocals
Ryan Green, vocals and guitar
Bob and Carol Van Gelder, song leaders
The Choir of Immanuel Church
Ed Vander Woude, audio visual

Acknowledgments:

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Bulletin Art:

Nathaniel Mokgosi (South African, 1946–), "Come, ye blessed . . .," 1980. This linocut is one of ten in a series on the Beatitudes. <https://artandtheology.org/tag/beatitudes/>



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