



## **Worship @ Home Guide**

***Feb. 28, 2021- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent***

**Woodstock Presbyterian Church**  
**142 E. Court St., Woodstock, VA 22664**  
[www.woodstockpresbyterianchurch.com](http://www.woodstockpresbyterianchurch.com)

## **RECONNECT**

**Gathering Music/Announcements – Heartstrings**

**+Congregational Meeting next Sunday, March 7 – parking lot, 1:00pm**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

*Today in worship, we will be reminded that again and again, we are called to listen. This is part of our invitation as people of faith—to not only speak, pray, and sing, but to listen.*

*And I will be the first to say, listening is hard. From our toddler years on up, we struggle to listen, particularly when we don't know what we're listening for or we don't agree with what we're hearing.*

*So for just a moment, as we gather ourselves for worship,  
I want to invite you to join me in a kinesthetic call to  
worship by embodying our prayer as I prompt you.*

*Let us listen, let us pray:*

**Family of faith, I invite you to close your eyes.**

**Rest your feet on the floor beneath you.**

**Release any tension you are holding—**

**In your jaw, your neck, your shoulders, your hands, your legs, your feet.**

**Take a deep breath in and slowly let it out.**

**The Hebrew word for breath (*ruach*) is the same word for Spirit.**

**So as you breathe, imagine that it is God who is filling up your lungs with energy and love.**

**Trust that God is as**

**close as your very breath.**

Now I invite you to still your mind. Imagine your mind as a river.  
Thoughts will drift into view; they always do.  
However, instead of holding onto those thoughts, allow yourself to let them float by.  
And listen.  
Listen deep.  
Listen far.  
Listen wide.  
Listen.

The sound of your breath is the sound of the Divine.  
This is a holy space.  
Let us worship God.

### **Hymn – O Word of God Incarnate**

<https://youtu.be/mRpN6E2Hjcs> - Sung by the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church (Michigan) Virtual Choir with James Biery, organist. Words by W. W. How, 1867. Music "Munich" adapted by Mendelssohn, 1847.

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
We praise You for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
A Lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The Church from You, our Savior, received the Gift divine,  
And still that Light is lifted over all the earth to shine.  
It is the sacred Vessel where gems of truth are stored;  
It is the heaven drawn Picture of Christ, the living Word.

The Scripture is a banner before God's host unfurled;  
It is a shining Beacon above the darkling world.  
It is the Chart and Compass that over life's surging tide,  
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands, to You, O Christ, will guide.

O make your Church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,  
To bear before the nations Your true light as of old.  
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace,  
Till, clouds and darkness ended, they see You face to face.

### **Call to Confession**

Often the first step to change is listening.  
We have to listen to those we've hurt.  
We have to listen to creation as she cries.  
We have to listen to the voice of the oppressed,  
If we ever hope to make things right.  
So today as we begin our prayer of confession,  
We will start with a moment of silence—  
A moment to listen.  
And then we will pray together trusting that God is always listening to us,  
And that God's ears listen with love.  
So let us confess, silently and then together...

### **Prayer of Confession**

One: Listening God,

**All: Take what is closed in us and open it.  
Take what is distracted in us and settle it.  
Take what is hurting in us and hold it.  
Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you.  
For we are like Peter, O God.  
We argue what we don't know. We fear what we cannot see.  
And we almost always speak sooner than we listen.  
So open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us.  
We long to hear you more clearly.  
We long to know you more fully.  
With hope we pray,  
And with gratitude we confess.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

## **READ**

### **Scripture Reading      Psalm 22:23-31**

You who fear the LORD, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!  
<sup>24</sup> For he did not despise or abhor  
the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me,<sup>[a]</sup>  
but heard when I<sup>[b]</sup> cried to him.

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
 my vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
<sup>26</sup> The poor<sup>[a]</sup> shall eat and be satisfied;  
 those who seek him shall praise the LORD.  
 May your hearts live forever!  
<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember  
 and turn to the LORD;  
 and all the families of the nations  
 shall worship before him.<sup>[d]</sup>  
<sup>28</sup> For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
 and he rules over the nations.  
<sup>29</sup> To him,<sup>[e]</sup> indeed, shall all who sleep in<sup>[f]</sup> the earth bow down;  
 before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
 and I shall live for him.<sup>[g]</sup>  
<sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him;  
 future generations will be told about the Lord,  
<sup>31</sup> and<sup>[h]</sup> proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
 saying that he has done it.

**Musical Reflection** – “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”, Union Presbyterian Seminary

### **Scripture Reading      Mark 8:31-9:8**

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,<sup>[a]</sup> will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words<sup>[b]</sup> in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” **9** <sup>1</sup> And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with<sup>[c]</sup> power.”

## **The Transfiguration**

<sup>2</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one<sup>[a]</sup> on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,<sup>[a]</sup> one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[b]</sup> listen to him!" <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

### **REFLECT**

**Message**                    **"Again & Again, We are Called to Listen"**

### **RESPOND**

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

**All: We believe.**

One: Sometimes our belief is confident,  
Like a child on a dance floor—  
Unashamed and wildly genuine.

One: We believe.

**All: Sometimes our belief is distant,  
Flickering and calling out to us  
Like a lighthouse on the sea.**

**All: We believe.**

One: Sometimes our belief shows up as passion,  
Guiding the way we vote, shop, give, live, trust, and hope.

One: We believe.

**All: Sometimes our belief is like a shadow—  
Faith stitched to our heels, unmoveable, unloseable,  
A gift for winding journeys.**

**All: We believe.**

One: Sometimes our belief exists like growing pains.  
We step forward. We fall back.

But again and again,  
Jesus invites us to listen,  
To grow, and to take another step.

**All: So again and again,  
We speak these truths out loud:  
We believe.**

One: We believe.

**All: Again and again, we believe.**

One: Thanks be to God. Amen.

## **RETURN**

### **Words of Forgiveness**

One: Friends, whether you are standing at the door of a deeper faith journey,  
Unsure of what comes next,  
Or running your way through that threshold,  
You are claimed, forgiven, and loved by God.

**All: Again and again, we are forgiven.  
Again and again, we are loved.  
Again and again, we are invited in.**

One: Thanks be to God for a love like that.  
if you hear nothing else today, hear this:  
God is here. God sees you. God knows you. God meets you at the edge of every new beginning,  
And God calls you beloved.

**All: We are washed by the water.  
We are called beloved.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

One: Siblings in Christ,  
We confess with gratitude because we know that God already has heard and forgiven us.  
No matter what we have done or left undone, we are held in God's hand.  
So rest in this good news:

**All: God invites us in.  
God meets us where we are.  
God hears our prayers.  
God forgives us.**

One: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

**Charge & Benediction - again & again, a lenten refrain**

As you leave this space,  
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.  
May your arms hold those in need.  
May your feet walk toward justice.  
May your heart trust its worth.  
May your soul dance in God's grace.  
And may this be your rhythm—  
Again and again and again,  
Until God's promised day.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,  
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.  
Amen.

**Sending Hymn What Wondrous Love is This**

*Recording, The Center for Congregational Song*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

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