

Worship @ Home Guide



March 21, 2021- 5th Sunday in Lent

Woodstock Presbyterian Church

142 E. Court St., Woodstock, VA 22664

www.woodstockpresbyterianchurch.com

RECONNECT

Gathering Music/Announcements – *Come Ye Sinners*

Welcome & Call to Worship

One: Every week is a new week,

Another chance to say:

All: "Here I am. Use me."

One: Every day is a new day,

Another chance to say:

All: "Thank you for yesterday. Thank you for tomorrow."

One: Every hour is a new hour,

Another chance to say,

All: "Again and again, make me new."

One: We do not come to this place to stay the same.

All: We come to this place to be changed.

One: So let us worship holy God,

Who created yesterday, will create tomorrow, and even now is creating something new.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn – Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended

Call to Confession

In the gospel of John, a group of Greek people approach the disciples and say,
"We would like to see Jesus."

It's a brief, beautiful moment that the text doesn't spend a lot of time on,
And yet, it always catches my eye.

It catches my eye, because the phrase, "I want to see Jesus,"
Feels like it should be my constant prayer.

Help me see Jesus.

I'd like to see Jesus.

Bring me closer to Jesus.

In the prayer of confession,

We take a moment to recognize how much space exists between us and those words,
Trusting that even when we forget to seek out God,

God is seeking us out.

So join me in the prayer of confession today as we take one step closer to the Divine . . .

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

We want to see you.

We want to be known as the people who looked for Jesus;

But not only that, we want to be people who have your covenant written on our hearts.

Why do we feel so far away from that at times?

What went wrong?

Where did we lose our way?

Could you, would you, once again, write on our fragile hearts?

We would be so grateful.

Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

READ

Scripture Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, ³³ says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Scripture Reading John 12:20-33 (MSG)

A Grain of Wheat Must Die

²⁰⁻²¹ There were some Greeks in town who had come up to worship at the Feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee: "Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?"

²²⁻²³ Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, "Time's up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

²⁴⁻²⁵ "Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal.

²⁶ "If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me.

²⁷⁻²⁸ "Right now I am shaken. And what am I going to say? 'Father, get me out of this'? No, this is why I came in the first place. I'll say, 'Father, put your glory on display.'"

A voice came out of the sky: "I have glorified it, and I'll glorify it again."

²⁹ The listening crowd said, "Thunder!"

Others said, "An angel spoke to him!"

³⁰⁻³³ Jesus said, "The voice didn't come for me but for you. At this moment the world is in crisis. Now Satan, the ruler of this world, will be thrown out. And I, as I am lifted up from the earth, will attract everyone to me and gather them around me." He put it this way to show how he was going to be put to death.

REFLECT

Message **"Again & Again, We are Reformed"**

RESPOND

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that flowers need the rain.

We believe that humans need community.

We believe that bodies need rest.

We believe that hearts need connection.

We believe that mornings need sunrise.

We believe that seasons need change.

We believe that grief needs space.

We believe that change needs time.

We believe that love needs security.

We believe that pain needs art.

We believe that joy needs company.

We believe that our spirits need God.

Again and again, our spirits need God.

Fortunately for us, we trust that
God is here.
God is at work in our lives.
God is a lighthouse keeper that never gives up.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.

Offering

Minute for Mission – One Great Hour of Sharing

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.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

One: Friends, despite our wonderings,
Despite our distractions,

Despite wrong turns time and time again,
We are known and loved by God.
Like a lighthouse keeper by the sea,
God will never stop waving us home.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**All: Our fragile bones are held by the Great Creator.
Our fragile hearts are loved by the Great Creator.
Our tender spirits are forgiven by the Great Creator.**

One: Today is a new day.

**All: Again and again, we are forgiven;
Again and again, we are reformed.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

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 *God Be With You til we Meet Again*

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