

+ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD +

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

[unison]

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦ **PEACE**

PRELUDE

✦ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
They are more desirable than gold, and sweeter than honey.
In keeping them is great reward.

✦ **HYMN #93**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 20:1-17 [The Message]

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.

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 worshipping 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 slavery,
and has brought us into the community of faith.

Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace.
[continue in silence, personal confession]

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

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.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that we are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

✦ **GLORIA PATRI #581**

“Glory Be To the Father”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

+ PROCLAIMING THE WORD +

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

INTERLUDE

✦ GOSPEL

John 2:13-22

SERMON

+ RESPONDING TO THE WORD +

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed [page 34]

✦ HYMN #402

“How Lovely, Lord”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer [page 35]

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

✦ DOXOLOGY #606

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD +

✦ HYMN #716

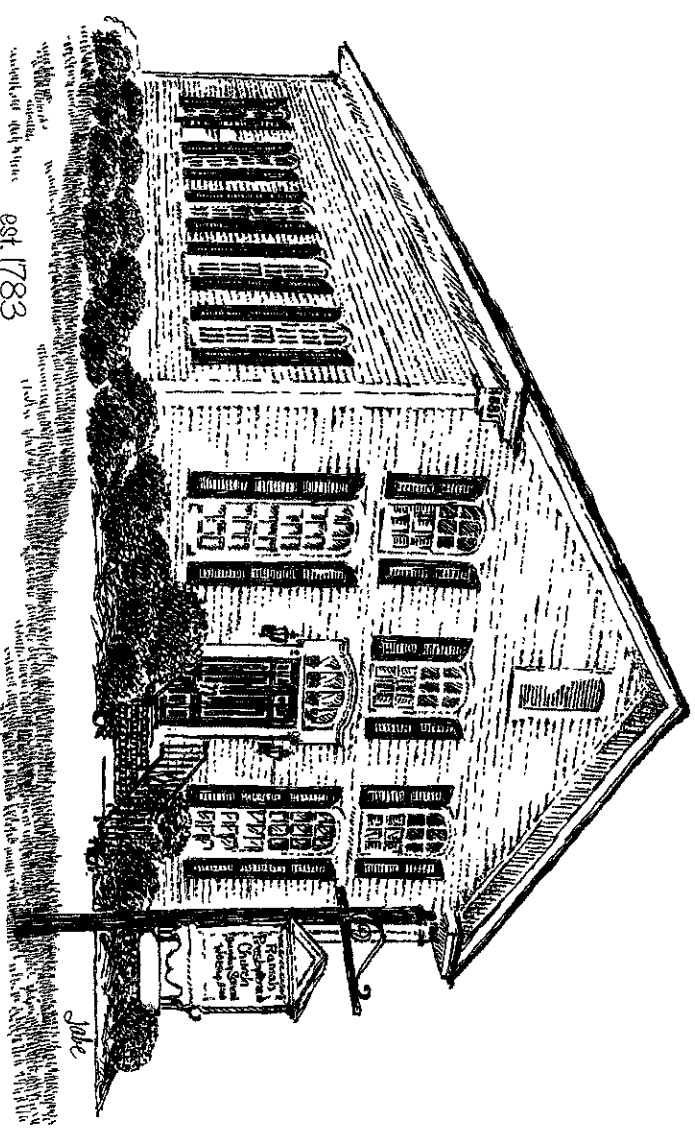
“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

✦ BENEDICTION

✦ POSTLUDE

+ + +

✦ PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE



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RAMAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA

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Sunday, March 4, 2018
3rd Sunday in Lent

Worship Leadership:

The Reverend Brian Copeland
The Director of Music: Tim Ward
Nursery: Jo Brown & Ann McCarthy
Children's Church: —