

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church  
Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 10, 2024**

**Responsive Call to Worship – PWS&D Lenten Liturgy**



## Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Written by the Rev. John Bannerman (PWS&D Committee Co-Convenor)*

**One:** On this fourth Sunday of Lent, we overhear  
a nighttime conversation between Jesus and  
a Pharisee named Nicodemus.

**All:** **Jesus says we must be born anew  
and born of the Spirit. With Nicodemus we ask,  
"How can these things be?"**

**One:** But maybe it's not all about  
understanding these mysteries.  
Maybe it's about hearing, believing and sharing  
the good news with our words and our actions.

**All:** **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but may have eternal life."**



THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

**Hymn 647      Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us**

**1. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,**

**for we have no help but thee,  
yet possessing every blessing  
if our God our guide shall be.**

**2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
lone and dreary, faint and weary  
through the desert thou didst go.**

**3. Spirit of our God descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy;  
thus provided, pardoned, guided  
nothing can our peace destroy.**

**Prayer of Praise**      *(minister)*

### **Hymn 39 God of mercy, God of grace**

**1. God of mercy, God of grace,  
show the brightness of your face.  
Shine upon us, Saviour, shine;  
fill your world with light divine,  
and your saving health extend  
unto earth's remotest end.**

**2. Let the people praise you, Lord;  
be by all that live adored.  
Let the nations shout and sing  
glory to their gracious King;  
at your feet their tribute pay,  
and your holy will obey.**

**3. Let the people praise you, Lord;  
earth shall then its fruits afford.  
Unto us your blessing give;  
we to you devoted live,  
all below and all above,  
one in joy and light and love.**

## **Prayer of Confession (congregation)**

**Merciful God, even as we praise you, we are aware of our failures as your disciples.**

**We take your love and acceptance of us for granted. We are often careless with our relationships, more focused on ourselves than on you or those around us. We spend our days distracted by the news, rather than seeking your light and truth. Forgive us.**

**Awaken our spirit of commitment and compassion. Give us a new vision of your purposes and our place within them, so we may serve you more faithfully, day by day.**

**- silent confession -**

## **The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)**

**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, the power, and the glory. For ever  
and ever. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon** *(minister)*

### **Hymn 189** **As when the Hebrew prophet raised**

**1. As when the Hebrew prophet raised  
the brazen serpent high  
the wounded looked and straight were cured;  
the people ceased to die,**

**2. so from the Saviour on the cross  
a healing virtue flows;  
who looks to him with living faith  
is saved from endless woes,**

**3. for God gave up the Son to death,  
so generous was that love,  
that all the faithful might enjoy  
eternal life above.**

**4. Not to condemn us, or to judge,**

**the Lamb of God appeared;  
no weapons in his hands are seen,  
nor voice of terror heard.**

**5. Christ came to raise our fallen state,  
and our lost hopes restore;  
faith leads us to the mercy seat  
and bids us fear no more.**

### **Responsive Reading Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 p. 556 NT & Psalms**

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!  
His faithful love endures forever.

**<sup>2</sup> Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out!  
Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.**

<sup>3</sup> For he has gathered the exiles from many lands,  
from east and west,  
from north and south.

**<sup>17</sup> Some were fools; they rebelled  
and suffered for their sins.**

<sup>18</sup> They couldn't stand the thought of food,  
and they were knocking on death's door.

**<sup>19</sup> "Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble,  
and he saved them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup> He sent out his word and healed them,  
snatching them from the door of death.

**<sup>21</sup> Let them praise the Lord for his great love  
and for the wonderful things he has done for them.**

**<sup>22</sup> Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and sing joyfully about his glorious acts.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

*Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation

### **Scripture Lessons**

Numbers 21:4-9 p. 124 pew Bible

Ephesians 2:1-10 p. 333 New Testament & Psalms

John 3:14-21 p. 162 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God!***

**Sermon**    **Now or later**

**Prayers of the People**    *(minister)*

**Hymn 489**    **Help us to help each other, Lord**

**1. Help us to help each other, Lord,  
each other's cross to share;  
let each our friendly aid afford  
and feel each other's care.**

**2. Up into thee, our living Head,  
let us in all things grow,  
and by thy let sacrifice be led  
the fruits of love to show.**

**3. Drawn by the magnet of thy love  
let all our hearts agree,  
and ever to each other move,  
and ever nearer thee.**

**4. This is the bond of perfectness,  
thy spotless charity,  
Oh let us still, we pray, possess  
the mind that was in thee.**

**Offering & Offertory**

**\*Doxology**    **830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Prayer of Dedication**    **(congregation)**

**Lord Jesus, you gave so much without counting the cost.  
Bless these gifts with your generous love. Use them to bless  
the world with the same hope and healing we have found in  
you. And let us not count the cost until we too have given all  
we can for your sake. Amen.**

**Hymn 204**    **Thou didst leave thy throne**

**1. Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown  
when thou camest to earth for me,  
but in Bethlehem's home was there found no room**

**for thy holy nativity:  
oh come to my heart, Lord Jesus;  
there is room in my heart for thee.**

**2. Even foxes found rest, and the birds had their nest  
in the shade of the forest tree,  
but thy couch was the sod, O thou Son of God,  
in the deserts of Galilee:  
oh come to my heart, Lord Jesus;  
there is room in my heart for thee.**

**3. When thou camest, O Lord, with the living word,  
'twas to set all thy people free,  
but with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn,  
then we bore thee to Calvary:  
oh come to my heart, Lord Jesus;  
now thy cross is my only plea.**

**4. Heaven's arches shall ring and its choirs shall sing  
at thy coming to victory;  
let thy voice call me home, saying, 'Yet there is room,  
there is room at my side for thee!'  
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,  
when thou comest and callest me.**

### **Choral Blessing**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will be with you each hour of every day.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

### **Benediction**

### **Three-fold Amen**

### **Piano Postlude**