WELCOME TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

Third Sunday in Lent

**March 3, 2024**

Prelude

Ring the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Passing the Peace of Christ

Call to Worship

As we sit within this community of faith, so we are fed.

**Praise and prayer feed our minds and spirits.**

We are wonderfully fed.

**The teachings of Jesus bring us to the faithful way.**

We are graciously fed.

**The cross of Jesus calls us to the selfless, practical way.**

We are gloriously fed.

**The rising of Jesus from death fills us with a timeless, unbounded hope.**

\*Opening Hymn #188 “Jesus Loves Me!”

\*Call to Confession:

God looks at us, to see if we are wise enough to offer confession, to receive forgiveness, and to seek to know the healing love of Christ. Let us prove our wisdom, and set aside our foolish pride, as we pray together,

\*Prayer of Confession

**Wisdom's Heart: deep within, we know how we have failed to be your people. Our hardened hearts are closed to the love of Christ; our lust for more and more blocks the fullness of your grace from transforming our lives; our trust in the powers of the world reveals our foolish nature.**

 **Have mercy, God of every generation. Pour out the rich blessing of forgiveness on our parched souls. Feed us with Heaven's Bread, so we might be nourished by your gentleness. Shape us as your people, and restore us to faithful living, as we seek to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in service to everyone we meet.**

\*Assurance of Pardon

The wideness of God's mercy, the range of God's forgiveness, the infinite love of God, the Heart of hope which is never empty: all these gifts are ours, as God restores us to the fullness of life meant for us.

**Grounded in love, rooted in discipleship, we offer ourselves in service to others, recognizing the limitless grace which is ours to share in Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*Gloria Patri

Children’s Sermon

Scripture John 6:1-15

Sermon “Come to the Table to Work Miracles”

\* Hymn #511 “Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven”

Birthdays

Joys/Concerns

Prayers of the People

**Service of Holy Communion**

***Invitation to the Table***

***Prayer of Great Thanksgiving***

May God feed you at this Table of grace!

**And also feed you!**

God desires to dwell in us,

**and so we open our hearts to welcome God.**

Let us rejoice in the God who loves us,

**as we sing songs of thanksgiving to God.**

Chaos foolishly thought there was no God,

until you spoke and sent it astray,

as creation burst forth from your imagination,

 grace racing the breadth and length

 planting wonders and joys beyond count,

 laughter filling the height and depth

 of every corner of the universes.

You prayed that we would have the power

to understand that all these gifts were shaped

for the life of those crafted in your image.

 But early one evening we gazed sin bathing,

 and felt it so beautiful that we inquired

 of death how to gain it.

You sent the prophets to us,

their words continuing to challenge us

to see if we had grown any wiser,

 but we continued to confound your plans,

 seeking refuge in the alluring embrace of temptation.

Finally, you sent Jesus to us,

who continually called to us,

‘do not be afraid; I am here.’

So with those who have come through the storms of life,

with those foolish enough to rely more on themselves than on you,

we lift our voices in glad song to you:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of who feeds all people.**

**All creation is filled with the fullness of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who came be the bread to feed our emptiness.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

You alone are holy, God of every moment,

and in your Child, Jesus, we find that love we cannot understand.

He could have stayed on the safe shores of glory,

 but came to bring us hope in every storm we face.

He could have kept your abundance for himself,

 but took your gifts and poured them out for us,

 so much that there were leftovers to share with those around us.

He could have left us to our foolish lives,

 but confounded the plans of sin

 by defeating death at its own game,

and restored us in that refuge called the resurrection.

As we try to understand his willingness to restore

 our fragmented lives through his brokenness,

as we ponder that miracle which is beyond death,

we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

**We know God’s love, by the death of Christ;**

**we received the grace of God, by the resurrection of Christ;**

**we will be fed in glory, by the return of Christ.**

We gather at this Table which is blessed

by your Spirit of transformation,

the common gifts being set aside for your holy use.

The broken pieces of the bread

are just enough to strengthen us

so we can go out to serve our fragmented world.

The cup of grace overflows with hope,

so we can see those around us,

 the families without hope,

 the children without food,

 the elderly without friends,

 the world without peace.

And when that time comes, when you show

how truly foolish you are by gathering

those of every time and place around your Table,

we will join our hearts and voices

in singing our praises to you forever and ever,

God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

***Words of Institution***

***Communion of the People***

***Invitation to Offering***

Offertory

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving for our Tithes and Offerings

**In our hands, the gifts seem so paltry, but in yours, they can bring plentitude of grace to those who are so hungry for hope. In our hearts, we wonder how effective our ministries might be, but joined with yours, we can indeed bring healing, community, peace, and joy to our struggling communities. Bless us and our gifts, multiply our hopes and our efforts, that your wonders might come into the world around us. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn #353 “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

\* Charge and Benediction

Share the bread of life with all whom you meet; let the Spirit of life strengthen your whole being; and be open to the transforming of your soul by the fullness of God.

May the grace of God, the fullness of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always!

Postlude