

**Anthem**      *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*      Newton /  
Trad. American melody  
Additional Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio

**Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

We thank you, O God: **You are making all things new!**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the marked basket nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.**

A special thank you to our ushers!

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Ensemble: Beth Foley, Sue Jones, Stephen Mabie, Susan Mabie,

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Artist's note on cover image: "This painting is visual labyrinth containing many Lenten concepts. The labyrinth begins and ends with the dark path at the bottom —representing Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Some other themes depicted are: covenant relationship, scripture, The Law, discipleship, betrayal, servant hood, readiness, patience, Christ's passion, deliverance, abundance, provision, sacrifice, new life, and love."

*Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.*



*Lenten Labyrinth, Mike Moyers, 2012, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN*

14 March 2021  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

# Order of Worship

## Prayer of Preparation

*Holy God, by the cross and resurrection of Jesus, you lift the suffering world toward hope and transformation and open the way to eternal salvation. As we move ever closer to the passion of Christ, may your law of love be written on our hearts as he draws all people to himself revealing your love for the world. Amen.*

## Welcome

## Chiming of the Trinity

**Prelude**                      *I love to Tell the Story*                      Arr P. Keveren

**\*Call to Worship**                                              Psalm 107:1-9 (NIV)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—  
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,  
those he gathered from the lands,  
from east and west, from north and south.**

Some wandered in desert wastelands,  
finding no way to a city where they could settle.  
They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away.

**Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.**

He led them by a straight way  
to a city where they could settle.

**Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love  
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,  
for he satisfies the thirsty  
and fills the hungry with good things.**

**Anthem**                      *There is a Balm in Gilead*                      Spiritual

## Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not been sincere  
Christians. We claim to follow Jesus but have not taken his**

**path of sacrificial love. We profess to be disciples, but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship. We affirm the virtue of self-denial, but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for sincere repentance through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

*Silent Confession*

## Assurance of Pardon

## Summary of the Law

**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”                      Matthew 22:37-39**

## Prayer of Illumination

**Lesson**                                              John 3:14-21  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**                      *Heaven Born*                      The Rev. Lloyd Griffith

**\*Affirmation of Faith**  
A Declaration of Faith (PCUSA 1991) Ch. 1(4&5)

God moves in history with his people.  
**Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record.  
The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history,  
together with his people's response in faith. It tells how the  
Lord has moved with Israel and the church towards the  
kingdom of God, his just and loving rule over all. It is the  
story of the one God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy  
Spirit. That story is still unfolding and in faith we make it our  
own. It forms our memory and our hope. It tells us who we  
are and what we are to do. To retell it is to declare what we  
believe.**

God is at work beyond our story.  
**We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell.  
The story itself tells us God works his sovereign will  
among all peoples of the earth. We believe God works beyond  
our imagining throughout the universe.**