willingness. Jesus' love for the very people who reject him is God's love.

Anthem *God So Loved the World* Stainer

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *How Good, Lord, to Be Here!* Guse
Your Glory Fills the Sky

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!

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Margaret Cooper, Beth Foley, Bill Harris, Mildred Moore Lopez, Pat K. Rowlett, Carol Taylor, David Taylor

Prayers reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.

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.

Saint Verena washes the hair of a plague patient, 1525, Landesmuseum Württemberg, Germany, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

7 March 2021
3rd 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

God of heaven and earth, I listen this morning for the sound of your glory: in the songs of birds, in quiet conversations that begin the day, in easy laughter among friends, in sunlight's warmth, pattering rain, or silent snowfall. Give me ears to hear your glory in its many forms. Give me eyes to see your glory in its many guises. Throughout this day, I, too, will proclaim your glory, your grace, and your love so that I may be a part of the chorus of praise that stretches to the ends of the earth. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Ah, Holy Jesus* Cherwien

***Call to Worship** Psalm 19:7–11

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.

Anthem *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* Smart

Confession

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 worshiping 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 of slavery, and brought us into the community of faith. Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace.

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 1 Corinthians 1:18–25

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Declaration of Faith (PCUSA 1991) Ch. 1(2&3)

God is greater than our understanding.
We do not fully comprehend who God is or how he works. God's reality far exceeds all our words can say. The Lord's requirements are not always what we think is best. The Lord's care for us is not always what we want. God comes to us on his own terms and is able to do far more than we ask or think.

God makes himself known in Jesus Christ.
Jesus' involvement in the human condition is God's involvement. His compassion for all kinds of people is God's compassion. His demand for justice, truth, and faithfulness is God's demand. His willingness to suffer rejection is God's