

Offertory *Simple Gifts* TRADITIONAL

*Doxology

**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. Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

*HYMN #379

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less SOLID ROCK

*BENEDICTION (*Hebrews 13:20-21*)

*RESPONSE *Standing on the Promises* PROMISES

**Standing on the promises of Christ my king,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the
promises of God.**

**Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my
Savior;**

Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God

POSTLUDE

St. Anthony Chorale ARR. BY JOHNSON

SERVICE NOTES:

Today's service was inspired by this year's Horizons Bible Study entitled **Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews** written by PCUSA Pastor Melissa Bane Sevier. Presbyterian Women thanks the women who helped prepare today's service and all the women and men in our congregation who have been witnesses in living their faith. Presbyterian Women invite all women in our congregation to join future PW activities, including the annual Bible Study.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

NEW TESTAMENT

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen....

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

As we welcome Rev. Barry Williams as our Interim Head of Staff, the Communications Committee suggests that members & visitors should wear their name tags to help him in the process of getting to know us. He will be leading worship on March 11th.

If you need a new name tag, please let the church office know - we would be glad to make you a new one. There are stick-on tags available at the Welcome Station for visitors.

WITNESSES WITH FAITH

CELEBRATING THE
GIFTS OF WOMEN



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

**Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and
Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves**

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church world-wide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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MARCH 4, 2018

Third Sunday in Lent March 4, 2018

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION OF INQUIRER: ALICE WILSON

PRELUDE *Ah, Holy Jesus* J. WALTER
Jimmy Kay Sanders, Organist

ENTERING OF WORD AND LIGHT

THE GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Hebrews 1: 1-3*)

Leader: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

People: But in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.

Leader: The Son is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being.

People: The Son sustains all things by his powerful word.

All: Let us now worship God, the Creator, Jesus, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who invites us to be one.

*OPENING PRAYER

* HYMN #443 *O Christ, the Great Foundation* AURELIA

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

God of creation, you have created us in your image. We praise you and thank you for our lives and the lives of all those we love. We are your children. But we too often overlook the other children you also created - our sights stop with those who are like us and with those we know. Remind us that your love and your grace are not only for us. Remind us that we are to follow the example of Jesus – the Good Shepherd – in seeking out and caring for all the children, including those who are lost. We ask for your mercy as we reflect on our need for your forgiveness....

Our Silent Personal Prayers of Confession

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Alleluia and Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

“Peace be with you...and also with you.”

A TIME FOR OUR CHILDREN Shannon Evans
Saints Around Us

*HYMN #148 *At the Name of Jesus* KINGS'S WESTON

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 12:1-2

ANTHEM *Standing on the Promises* PROMISES
Women's Chorus

NEW TESTAMENT Hebrews 11:1 through 12:2

SERMON *“Witnesses with Faith”*
(8:30 Anne Schneider; 10:45 Brenda Waters)

THE THANKSGIVING

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Hebrews 10:23; 12:1-2; 13:6)

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,

who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Let us be able to say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation & Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

PASTOR: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

They will come from east and west, And from north and south, And sit at table in the kingdom of God.

ALL: According to Luke, When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, He took the bread, and blessed and broke it, And gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened And they recognized him.

PASTOR: This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

ELDER: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ELDER: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

ELDER: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PASTOR: It is truly right and our greatest joy.....

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread/Sharing of the Cup

The Communion Bread is gluten-free so all might partake.

Communion of the People

SHARING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS