

**The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship for March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Opening Voluntary

Violin Concerto in E minor, Opus 64: Andante
Anne Landis Jetton, violin

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Psalm 95: 1-2

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your heart to this great God.

It is right for us to lift our hearts in grateful praise!

Opening Prayer

Boundless God,
Draw near to us today,
So that we can revel in your amazing love.

Hymn

"Have Mercy, God, upon My Life"

Ryan Norris, cantor

Call to Reflection

Is Aslan Safe?

An interpretive reading from several chapters in C. S. Lewis's *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

Holly Kellar, Narrator
Chris Leonard, Peter
Suzie Lane, Susan
David Maddox, Edmund
Samera Zavaro, Lucy
Chuck Cardona, Beaver
Ryan Norris, cantor

Prayer of Confession

Magnificent and wonderful God, who inspires hopeful fear in all our hearts.
Forgive our attempts to tame you, to fit you into a box of our own making.
Remind us that you are the God who split the Red Sea for Israel to cross,
who crumbled the walls of Jericho with the simple blast of a trumpet,

**who turned water into wine and a small lunch into a feast for thousands,
who rolled the tomb's stone away and walked away from death itself.
Wake up our hearts to your awesome presence,
And grant us the grace to know You as you are,
Infinitely bigger and more complex than we could ever understand.**

(continue to reflect and confess in silent prayer)

A Call to Revel in God's Grace *Is Aslan Safe? (continued)*

Assurance of God's Grace Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived,
following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air,
the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.

**All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh,
following the desires of flesh and senses,
and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.**

**But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us
even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ—**

By grace you have been saved—
**and raised us up with him
and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

For we are what his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Please greet one another with words of peace and reconciliation.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Gloria Patri Glory Be to the Father

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.

Children's Message

Suzie Lane

Children's Message Verse

487, vs.4

These Treasured Children

Come, Holy Spirit, help us be a nurturing community; empower us to
realize God's kingdom through our children's eyes.

Prayer for Illumination

"Speak, O Lord"
Ryan Norris, cantor

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

Sermon

Living Into God's Strange Reality

Rev. Kat Olson

Meditative Response

Ryan Norris, cantor

Prayer of Intercession, Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

"The Mighty God with Power Speaks"

Ryan Norris, cantor

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Psalm XX

Benedetto Marcello

Have Mercy, God, upon My Life 421

(Psalm 51)

1 Have mer - cy, God, up - on my life, and
 2 My guilt is heav - y on my mind; I
 3 Now teach me wis - dom in my soul; I
 4 Cre - ate in me a faith - ful heart, a
 5 Then I will praise you with my heart, my

make me clean with - in: pour out your ev - er -
 know what I have done: a - gainst your jus - tice
 long to see your face. Let bones, once bro - ken,
 spir - it right and new. Sus - tain me with your
 mind, my soul, my voice. You save the least and

faith - ful love and wash a - way my sin.
 I have sinned, a - gainst you, God, a - lone.
 sing with joy, and heal me by your grace.
 sav - ing love and keep me close to you.
 seek the lost; let all the world re - joice!

Psalm 51, paraphrased here, has traditionally been known as one of the seven penitential psalms, and it is used annually on Ash Wednesday. But this psalm is not just about human sinfulness; it is also about God's willingness to forgive and restore sinners. That is good news.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009
 MUSIC: *A Collection of Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1749
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13 The Mighty God with Power Speaks

(Psalm 50)

1 The Might - y God with pow - er speaks, and all the world o - beys;
 2 God comes not with a si - lent form, but rid - ing on the winds;
 3 The heavens de - clare your jus - tice, Lord, as end - less as the sky;

from dawn un - til the set - ting sun, God's won - der earth dis - plays.
 be - fore God's face, the rag - ing storm its blast of thun - der sends.
 a - gainst the taunts of dis - be - lief, our God will tes - ti - fy.

The per - fect beau - ty all a - round from Zi - on's height shines forth;
 All hail the Judge, in bold ar - ray, whose prom - ise is to bless;
 Re - ceive my heart - felt gift of thanks, as hon - or to your might;

and stars a - cross the fir - ma - ment so bright - ly beam their worth.
 who sees our sins, yet al - so feels our thirst for righ - teous - ness.
 re - fresh my faith with each new day; pro - tect me through the night.

This paraphrase, set to a familiar English folk melody, focuses on the opening narrative section of Psalm 50 without attempting to summarize God's speeches in the latter portion of the psalm. Both parts bear witness to God's sovereignty, God's justice, and God's providence.