

**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Boonsboro, Maryland
301-432-2278
Rev. Ciara Simonson
Sunday, March 7, 2021 – Third Sunday in Lent
Worship Service 10:00 am**

**Organist – Greg Martin
Elders – Fran Cockerham and Conda Slick
Lay Leader – Mike Slick**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3331109127?pwd=VWVoOFITSGdXTm9pV2pMdE1DUnZ5UT09>

**Phone number: (301) 715 8592
Meeting ID: 333 110 9127
Passcode: 21713**

Greeting and Welcome- Richard Riddle

Announcements – Richard Riddle

Prayer of Invocation – Mike Slick

Opening Hymn - #774 When the Roll is Called Up Yonder

V1 When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more
And the morning breaks, eternal bright and fair.
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Refrain

When the roll is called up yonder, when the roll is called up yonder
When the roll is called up yonder, when the roll is called up yonder
I'll be there

V2 On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise
And the glory of His resurrection share
When His chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there. [Refrain]

V3 Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun
Let us talk to all His wondrous love and care
Then when all life is over, and our work on earth is done

And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there [Refrain]

Responsive Reading- Psalm 19

L – Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.

A – One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known.

L – Of course there's no speech, no words – their voices can't be heard –

A – but their sound extends throughout the world; their words reach the ends of the earth.

L – God has made a tent in heaven for the sun. The sun is like a groom coming out of his honeymoon suite; like a warrior, it thrills at running its course.

A – It rises in one end of the sky; its circuit is complete at the other. Nothing escapes its heat.

L- The Lord's Instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being.

A – The Lord's laws are faithful, making naïve people wise.

L – The Lord's regulations are right, gladdening the heart.

A – The Lord's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes.

L – Honoring the Lord is correct, lasting forever.

A – The Lord's judgments are true. All of these are righteous.

L – They are more desirable than gold – than tons of pure gold.

A – They are sweeter than honey – even dripping off the honeycomb.

L – No doubt about it: your servant is enlightened by them. There is a great reward in keeping them.

A – But can anyone know what they've accidentally done wrong? Clear me of any unknown sin.

L – and save your servant from willful sins. Don't let them rule me.

A – Then I'll be completely blameless; I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing. Let your words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

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.

Joys and Concerns

Interlude for Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Threefold Amen

Children's Message

Special Music

Scripture Reading

*The Lesson: **Exodus 20:1-17** (for your own reading)*

And God spoke all these words:

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

“You must have no other gods before me.

Do not make an idol for yourself – no form whatsoever - of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. Do not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the Lord your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents’ sins even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Do not use the Lord your God’s name as if it were of no significance; the Lord won’t forgive anyone who uses his name that way.

Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. Six days you may work and do all your tasks, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Do not do any work on it – not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your animals or the immigrant who is living with you. Because the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them in six days but rested on the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Honor your father and your mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Do not kill.

Do not commit adultery.

Do not steal.

Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.

Do not desire and try to take your neighbor’s house. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor’s wife, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

.

*The Epistle: **I Cor. 1:18-25** (for your own reading)*

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed, but it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. For it is written in scripture:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; and I will reject the intelligence of the intelligent.”

Where are the wise? Where are the legal experts? Where are the today’s debaters? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish? In God’s wisdom, he determined that the world wouldn’t come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. Jews asked for signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. But to those who are called – both Jews and Greeks – Christ is God’s power and God’s wisdom. This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

The Gospel: John 3: 1-17 (from NIV)

Now there was a Pharisee a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Jesus replied, **“Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless there are born again.”**

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second a time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

Jesus answered, **“Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear it sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going so it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”**

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. **“You are Israel’s teacher,”** said Jesus **“and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know,”** and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? **No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – The Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes” may have eternal life in him.”**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Sermon

Offering

The 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

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn – #460 Let Us Break Bread Together

V1 Let us break bread together on our knees
Let us break bread together on our knees

Refrain

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O' Lord have mercy on me.

V2 Let us drink the cup together on our knees
Let us drink the cup together on our knees [Refrain]

V3 Let us praise God together on our knees
Let us praise God together on our knees [Refrain]

Prayers of the Elders – Fran Cockerham
Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn #746 He Keeps Me Singing

V1 There's within my heart a melody, Jesus whispers sweet and low
Fear not I am with thee, peace be still, In all of Life's ebb and flow

Refrain

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus Sweetest name I know
Fills my every longing. Keeps me singing as I go

V2 All my life was wrecked by sin and strife, Discord filled my heart with pain
Jesus swept across the broken strings,
Stirred the slumb'ring chords again [Refrain]

V3 Feasting on the riches of His grace, resting 'neath His shelt'ring wing
Always looking on His smiling face

That is why I shout and sing [Refrain]

V4 Tho' sometimes He leads thro' waters deep, Trials fall across the way
Tho' sometimes the path seems rough and steep,
See His footprints all the way [Refrain]

V5 Soon He's coming back to welcome me far beyond the starry sky
I shall wing my flight to worlds unknown
I shall reign with Him on high [Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude