



Sunday, February 21, 2021 Service Online  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
Sierra Vista, Arizona  
*That the World Might be Saved 1*



PRELUDE *“Litany”* - Broughton

INTROIT *“Holy Ground”* - Choir Members

**CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

One: God meets us in the night—

**All: Before the sun rises,  
Before the wound heals,  
Before there are answers,  
Before there is closure.**

One: God meets us in the light—

**All: Where joy is effervescent,  
Where laughter is contagious,  
Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,  
And where people gather around the table.**

One: God meets us at the threshold—

**All: At the edge of the water,  
At the beginning of the wilderness,  
At the start of something new,  
On the edge of faith.**

One: And if God meets us in all those places,  
Then surely God meets us in between—

**All: Staying with us through the wilderness.**

One: We are not alone. God is all around.

**All: Let us worship the God of the here and now.**

**OPENING HYMN** *“How Firm a Foundation”* #463

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in God’s excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”*

*“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.”*

***“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”***

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)**

**God who meets us where we are—there is nowhere we can go that you are not. You were with Jesus at his baptism. You were with him in the wilderness, and even in between, you were there, saying aloud, “This is my beloved.” We know that you are with us too—in the good, the bad, and everything in between—but so often we act like we are alone. Instead of coming to you with our hurt, we hold it in or cast it onto others. Instead of coming to you with our joy, we credit ourselves and offer you nothing. Forgive our self-centered ways. Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there. You are the God who meets us where we are. Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.**

*(time for silent reflection)*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)**

**One:** Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this:  
God is here. God sees you. God knows you.

God meets you at the edge of every new beginning, and God calls you beloved.

**All:** **We are washed by the water. We are called beloved.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

**CHILDRENS TIME** - Elder Heather Carter

**SPECIAL MUSIC** - *“One Solitary Life”* - Bock Dave Rockwell, Soloist/Narration

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE – The Torah**

Genesis 9:8-17

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: <sup>9</sup>“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: <sup>13</sup>I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. <sup>16</sup>Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

*Holy wisdom, holy word, **thanks be to God.***

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

*Holy wisdom, holy word, **thanks be to God.***

**SERMON**                    ***"God Saves by Meeting Us Where We Are"***

**RESPONSE**

We believe in an inviting God  
Who invites the poor and the sick,  
The outcast and the lonely,  
The prisoner and the pardoned,  
The awkward and the abrasive,  
The young and the innocent.  
We believe God invites the best and the worst—  
In all of us.

We believe God invites us to:  
A life of faith, a crowded table,  
A messy church, a deeper truth,  
A resilient joy, a place to belong,  
A family among strangers, a world that is just,  
And a love that knows no bounds.  
We believe this invitation exists for the whole world.

We believe this invitation exists for all.  
And when we miss the call or ignore the invite,  
We believe that God invites us again.  
Thanks be to God for that invitational Spirit. Amen.

**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.***

**HYMN OF INVITATION**            ***"For Everyone Born"***    #769                    Verses 1 and 2

***For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead,***

**Refrain: and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!**

**For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for woman and man, a system that's fair.**

## **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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**

**CLOSING HYMN                    "For Everyone Born"                    #769                    Verses 3, 4, 5**

**For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
he hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong.**

**Refrain: and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!**

**For just and unjust, a place at the table,  
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,  
for just and unjust, a new way to live.**

**For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE                    "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"                    #471**

**O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
When I call, answer me.  
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.  
Come and listen to me.**

**The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise;  
All my hope comes from God.**

***The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise:  
God, the well-spring of life.***

**POSTLUDE** “*Faith Eternal*” - Broughton

Liturgy and prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

**Participants:**

Rev. Renée Rico – Pastor  
Elder Dave Rockwell – Worship Leader and Special Music  
Elder Heather Carter – Children’s Time  
Janis Wheat – Piano and Organ  
Elder Paul Hay – Video-Tech  
Elder Judy Mayhew - Photos

**ZOOM COFFEE HOUR** *Happens at 11:15 a.m.*

Sign into ZOOM, and we’ll place you in a small, Hosted group to have conversation with Faith folks to catch up and for conversation. Join Zoom Meeting :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85471968282?pwd=WnNpVXM1QndXTWdNNXN1QzNtNXFTUT09>

**Meeting ID: 854 7196 8282**      **Passcode: 603532**

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