



**An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day**  
**Stone Presbyterian Church**  
**A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation**  
**March 21, 2021 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent**



**We Gather as Disciples of Christ**

**PRELUDE** "La Follia" Alessandro Scarlatti  
 (Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

**POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 51)

*SINGER: Create in me a clean heart, O God.*

*LEADER: Create in me a clean heart, O God,*

**PEOPLE: and renew a right spirit within me.**

*LEADER: Cast me not away from your presence,*

**PEOPLE: and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

*LEADER: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*

**PEOPLE: and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

*SINGER: Create in me a clean heart, O God.*

**CONFESSION, LENTEN WALK, AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*LEADER: Let us pray together.*

**PEOPLE: God of majesty and glory, in the deserts in our lives, we thirst for your grace. Forgive us for refusing to be open to one another—to those with whom you have given us our life. Forgive us for building walls that keep us in and others out. Forgive us for all things that separate, alienate, discriminate.**

*SINGER: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.*

**PEOPLE: Forgive us for thinking that we have done all you have asked when we tear down walls but continue to wait for our neighbors to come to us, rather than bravely taking the first step to find out where they hurt.**

*SINGER: Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.*

**PEOPLE: Lord of Love, help us to understand that waiting is often not much different from refusing, as we are still not brought together. Give us the assurance, the confidence, that brings an openness to our lives. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew right spirits within us. [silent prayer]**

*SINGER: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.*

**+THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**We Listen for the Word of God**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** *The new covenant will be written on the heart*  
 Told by Anne Dunn

**SOLO** "Balm in Gilead" arr. Harold Moyer  
 Sung by Lauralyn Kolb

**John 12:20-36** *Jesus speaks about death and servanthood*  
 Told by Donna

Goodfriend  
**Hebrews 5:5-10** *Christ is our great high priest*

**SERMON** "A Turtle's Ascent: A Cautionary Tale"

**We Respond in Faith and Prayer with Thanksgiving**

**HYMN #353 vv. 3 & 5** "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here" To MELITA  
*(You are encouraged to meditate on the words instead of singing while the music is played)*

Great God, in Christ You call our name and then receive us as Your own,  
 Not through some merit, right, or claim, but by your gracious love alone.  
 We strain to glimpse Your mercy seat and find you kneeling at our feet.

Great God, in Christ You set us free, Your life to live, Your joy to share.  
 Give us Your Spirit's liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair  
 And offer all that faith can do while love is making all things new.

**+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – (adapted from Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*)

**We are to find God in what we know, not in what we do not know; God wants us to realize his presence not in unsolved problems, but in those that are solved. This is true of the relationship between God and scientific knowledge, but it is also true of the wider human problems of death, suffering, and guilt. God is no stop-gap; he must be recognized as the center of life, not when we are at the end of our resources; it is God's will to be recognized in life, and not only when death comes; in health and vigor, and not only in suffering, in our daily activities, and not only in sin. We find God not in the boundaries of our**

lives, but at the center; not in weakness, but in strength. The church stands, not at the boundaries where human powers give out, but in the middle of the village.

**LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION – ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER** (“debts/debtors”)

**TITHES AND OFFERING**

*(Please deposit in the plate in the back before or after worship.)*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***We Continue on the Lenten Journey***

**HYMN #148, v. 1**

**“At the Name of Jesus”**

**KING’S WESTON**

*(You are encouraged to meditate on the words instead of singing while the music is played)*

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess Him King of glory now;  
‘Tis the Father’s pleasure we should call Him Lord,  
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

**CHARGE & BLESSING**

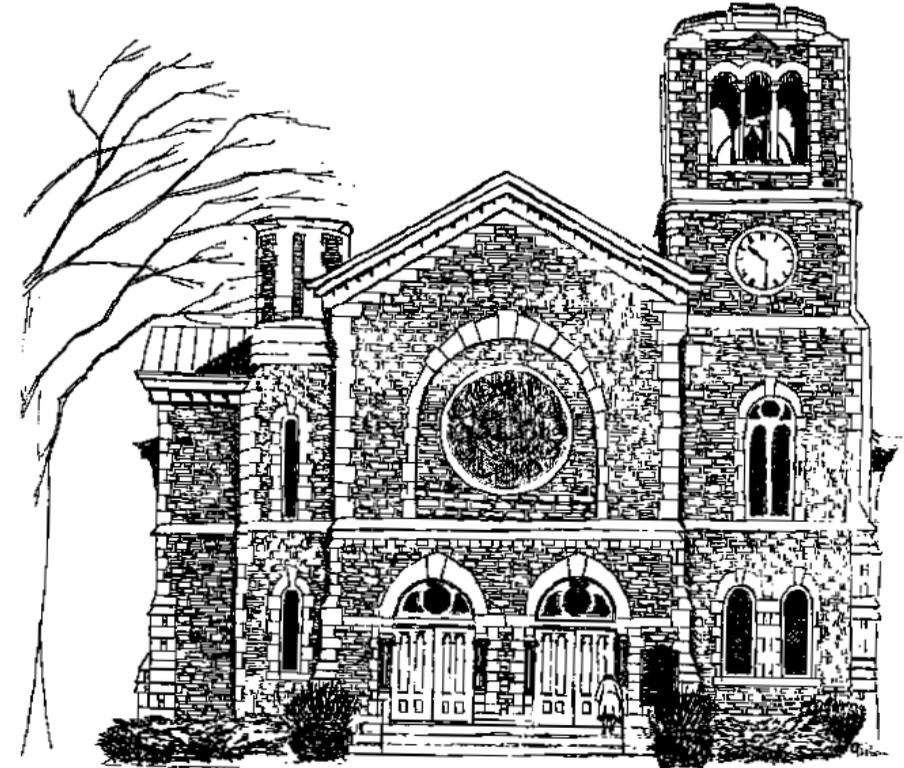
**POSTLUDE**

**“Jesus Shall Reign”**

Richard Wienhorst

**STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP**

**March 21, 2021 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent ~10:30 a.m.**



*The purpose of Stone Church is to be an inviting, spiritual community of Christ, engaging in worship that inspires and challenges us to learn and grow as we reach out in caring and service, trusting in the love of God.*

**All the People, Ministers**

Stone Presbyterian Church

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**ECUMENICAL LENTEN STUDY 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY:** We started our annual ecumenical Lenten study last Wednesday over Zoom. This week The Rev. Janet Griffiths will be the moderator. The Zoom link will be emailed and on our Facebook page. Email Pastor Scott Leonard, [srleonard@roadrunner.com](mailto:srleonard@roadrunner.com), for the link if you don't receive it or can't find it.

**HOPE HOUSE:** This month's wish list includes the following: **shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste & razors.** Any donation that you designate for food or personal needs will be greatly appreciated. They are now serving two meals a day, take-out only, and are still looking for volunteers. Questions, contact Ceil Gilbert at 853-8289, [ceilgilbert@yahoo.com](mailto:ceilgilbert@yahoo.com)

**THE COUNTRY PANTRY:** The Country Pantry will be collecting hygiene products for one more month. Due to the increase numbers of seniors, **canned soup, chicken and fruit** is needed. In preparation for Easter, **wrapped candy, children's socks, gift cards** such as from 5 below and other small items of your choice are needed.

**FAIR TRADE SHOPPE:** Our delicious dark chocolate eggs from Ghana are perfect to tuck into Easter baskets. Each package contains approximately 18 eggs (5.2 oz). Our delightfully dark, organic, vegan 72% chocolate bars are made with cocoa from Brazil. Sweet and mild, this chocolate is a sophisticated blend of fruity and floral flavors, with hints of gingerbread and toffee. Our spring garden quilled eggs from Vietnam are remarkable in detail and craftsmanship. This set of 4 wooden eggs is covered with dozens of individually coiled paper details in lively colors and patterns, with a flat bottom for standing upright. Purchasing fair trade items ensures artisans and small farmers fair wages and healthy working conditions, providing dignity, sustainable development and hope to marginalized people. Our hours are 10am to 4pm every Thursday and second Saturdays, and also by appointment by calling 315-853-1070. **OUR 25% OFF SALE STILL IS IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** Face masks are required. Gloves and hand sanitizers are available. Let us be your go-to gift shop! For more information, visit our website at <https://buildingstoneshoppe.square.site> or watch our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/buildingstonesfairtradeshoppe](http://www.facebook.com/buildingstonesfairtradeshoppe) for updates.



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING,** which is supported by Christians all around the world, is an amalgam of three programs: it supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program. It promotes development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and it assists in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. From initial disaster response to refugee assistance and resettlement to ongoing community development, these pieces fit together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Helping these efforts seems as fitting way to demonstrate our acceptance of the lessons of Lent ending with the death and resurrection of Jesus. Stone church will collect **One Great Hour of Sharing** offerings on both Palm and Easter Sundays. For those of you who participate in our services virtually, contributions can be clearly marked and sent to the church office any time in March. Please brush

away the dust and join with others worldwide in using Lenten lessons and values to support One Great Hour of Sharing.



## THE CALENDAR



Tuesday – **03/23/21:** 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday – **03/24/21:** 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday - **03/25/21:** 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Sunday – **03/28/21:** 10:30 a.m.

**Presbytery Meeting  
Ecumenical Lenten Study  
Fair Trade Shoppe  
Worship**

**Want to see what else is on the calendar? Go to our Web page – [stonepres.org](http://stonepres.org) & click on the “CALENDAR ICON”**



**PRAYER CHAIN:** If you would like to add someone to our prayer list or would like to receive the prayer list for daily prayer, please go to our website [www.stonepres.org](http://www.stonepres.org) and click on “Prayer Request”

### **Members/Friends of the Week:**

Anne & Paul Dunn  
David & Heather Duncan  
Ashley & Michael Flora

### **Prayer Request:**

Paul Dunn  
Lynn Hall  
Family of Rev. Abraham Esper  
George Chamberlain  
Emily Hughes  
Little Falls Presbyterian Church  
Bonnie Felshaw  
Andrew Bering  
Sara Tolliver  
Ruth Hughes  
Judi Parsons and family  
Jeff Kolb  
Jim Kubat  
Jane Miller  
Judy Logan  
Debra LaFont

