

Music to Gather

Debi Orff, *piano*

Welcome & Community News

* Responsive Psalm

Psalm 121 (NRSV)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

The LORD will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. The LORD who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

* Opening Song 466 “Unto the Hills We Lift Our Longing Eyes”

Children’s Time

God’s Word

John 3:1-17 (NRSV)

read by Sharri Kinkead

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

“Born of the Spirit, Eternal by Design”

Rev. Clare Gromoll

* A Song of Faith 605

“As Moses Raised the Serpent Up”

Prayer and Prayer of Confession (prayed together)

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent,
for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

An Assurance of God’s Grace and Peace

Communion

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
People's Congregational Church
Second Sunday of Lent + March 5, 2023



Invitation to Give + We Gather our Gifts

*** Our Song of Thanks**

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

***Prayer of Dedication for Our Offerings**

Joint Congregational Conversation

*** Blessing and Brunch**

*** Music as We Go Out**

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