

against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and pleaded with him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, I have served you these many years, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

L: This is the word of the Lord; **P: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON “God Welcomes Returning Sinners” Rev. Frank Wyche

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles’ Creed* Inside front cover of hymnal

*HYMN *Softly and Tenderly* #479

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (...debts/debtors...)

*HYMN *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy* #355

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSE *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE Adam Kelly, Accompanist

*Those who are able may stand

BOLDFACE TYPE indicates words spoken or sung by the congregation.



The Prodigal Son by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794-1872)

This woodcut is based on the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32. In the center front, the returning son kneels before his father (verse 21); on the left, a servant brings a fine robe (verse 22); on the right, the elder brother is resentful (verse 28); and at the top center, angels rejoice when one who is lost returns (Luke 15, verses 7 and 10).

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March 31, 2019 ~ 4th Sunday in Lent

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 31, 2019

4th Sunday in Lent

11:00 A.M.

As you enter the sanctuary please do so reverently, and during the prelude please speak softly so as not to distract others preparing for worship.

PRELUDE

Adam Kelly, Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord* Chancel Choir

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP ~ Psalm 32: 1-2, 6-8, 11**

L: Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins have been covered up.

P: Blessed are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

L: Therefore let all who have faith in you offer prayer to you. In a time of distress, amid the rush of great waters, peril shall not reach them.

P: You are a hiding place for me, you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with your deliverance.

L: [The LORD says] "I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."

P: Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O you righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

Eternal God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – Jesus proclaimed your kingdom, and called us to repent from our sins, and to return to you. Fill us with the Holy Spirit that we may know you more fully, and follow your will and your way, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

***HYMN**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

#139

CALL TO CONFESSION ~ Psalm 32: 3, 5a-c

L: When I did not admit my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long.

P: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION ~ From PC(USA) *Book of Common Worship*

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, cruelty, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may feel remorse, turn to you, receive forgiveness, and in repentance amend our ways, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

(Silent prayer and personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON ~ Psalm 103: 8-12

L: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD will not always chide, nor does God remain angry forever.

P: The LORD does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is the LORD's steadfast love toward those who hold God in proper awe and reverence.

P: And as far as the east is from the west, so far does the LORD remove our transgressions from us.

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

#813

ANTHEM

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Isaiah 55: 1-3b, 6-9 ~ Page 635 in the pew Bible

Listen: everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and those who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Harken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in fatness. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.

Seek the LORD while God may be found, call upon the LORD while God is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous ones their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that God may have mercy on them, and to our God, for the LORD will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32 ~ Pages 908-909 in the pew Bible

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that falls to me.' And he divided all of his assets between them. Not many days later, the younger son consolidated everything he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he threw away all his wealth in recklessly wasteful living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned