

Our Service of Worship for March 7, 2021
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Westwood First Presbyterian Church

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Jesus, Bread of Life, I Pray Thee” (with “Ave Verum”)—arr. Richard Wagner
During the Prelude, you are invited to take a moment to prepare for worship.

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Hymn: “*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*” *

A Time of Confession

Prayer for Illumination/Scripture Readings: Isaiah 56:1-8; John 2:13-22 *

Sermon: “*The True Temple*”

Solo: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”—Traditional Hymn, Travis Pearce, tenor

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Words of Institution/Sharing of the Elements

The Pastoral Prayer After Communion/The 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.

Hymn: “*Lift High the Cross*” *

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: “Variations in G Major”—Handel

* The words to the hymns and readings are included with the order of worship.

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi
Pastor

Heather MacPhail
Organist/Director of Music Ministries



Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1. Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.
2. Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One;
One in might, and One in glory, while unending ages run.



Lift High the Cross

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.
2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.
3. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Isaiah 56:1-8—The Covenant Extended

- ¹ Thus says the LORD:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.
- ² Happy is the mortal who does this,
the one who holds it fast,
who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it,
and refrains from doing any evil.
- ³ Do not let the foreigner joined to the LORD say,
“The LORD will surely separate me from his
people;”
and do not let the eunuch say, “I am just a dry tree.”
- ⁴ For thus says the LORD:
To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,
- ⁵ I will give, in my house and within my walls,
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.



⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—



⁷ These I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

John 2:13-22—Jesus Cleanses the Temple

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰ The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.



Moment for Meditation: The Real Temples

Across this nation today great cathedrals have been erected—typically, in Southern California, a glass cathedral, costing over 15 million dollars! Every one of those buildings has on it somewhere a brass plaque that says, “Erected to the glory of God.” I always feel irritated when I see that. The Scriptures teach that God is not glorified by buildings. No building is the house of God. It never was, it never will be. Even this building in Jerusalem was not really the house of God. When Solomon dedicated the temple he acknowledged that fact. He said, “Heaven, and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!” (2 Chronicles 6:18).

Buildings have always been but pictures of the house of God. The real temples are bodies—human beings—of body, soul, and spirit. That is where God has created a place where he can dwell. That is where God is glorified.