

WORSHIP NOTES

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Bob Cafaro for sharing his extraordinary talent with us this morning. Bob is a cellist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and teaches privately at his home in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

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Morrisville Presbyterian Church

Morrisville, PA

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2010

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Suite #3 in C Major BWV 1009: Prelude
Robert Cafaro, Cello

J. S. Bach

Jennifer Moyer-Harrington, Acolyte

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Rosenau

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY: Deacons

Bill Pruner

INTROIT

Jesus, Keep Me Near

Ellen Purchase

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Hancock

One: Sing to the LORD a new song;

All: **sing to the LORD, all the earth.**

One: Sing to the LORD, praise his name;

All: **proclaim his salvation day after day.**

*HYMN 483 – *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

MIT FREUDEN ZART

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION – *Unison*

O Lord, compassionate beyond measure, merciful beyond belief, we have been in the far country, lost in our sin, distant from you, seemingly beyond your reach. Yet something is calling us back. Somehow, we hope to return to you. We're just not sure about the details. Yet before we can work out what to say, you are running to us. Before we can voice our confession, your arms are around us. Your forgiveness astounds us. Help us to believe that it is so, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer, O Heavenly Father

Frederic Chopin

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE TO GOD'S PARDON – HYMN 567 – *Glory to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI

***THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

*As a sign of their reconciliation in Christ, the people share the peace of Christ, greeting one another with these or similar words:
“The peace of Christ be with you,” “Peace be with you,” or simply, “Peace.”*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE READING – 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (New Testament, pages 170-171)

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY – Psalm 32 (Old Testament, pages 479-480)

ANTHEM

He Never Failed Me Yet
Chancel Choir; Peter De Mets, soloist

Robert Ray

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

*K-2 children may leave for Cherub Choir rehearsal in the music room during the sermon.
All other children return to the pews to continue worshipping with their families.*

GOSPEL READING – Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (New Testament, page 73-74)

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Greatest Story Ever Told

Pastor Hancock

***HYMN 280 – Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**

AMAZING GRACE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – from A Brief Statement of Faith – PC(USA)**

One: We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

All: **But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.**

One: Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

All: **Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

*Women: Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
Men: like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,*

All: **God is faithful still.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts/debtors, *Presbyterian Hymnal*, page 16)

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

Suite #3 in D Major: Air
Robert Cafaro, Cello

J. S. Bach

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING

***HYMN 83 – O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High**

DEO GRACIAS

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE – HYMN 432 – Song of Hope**

Argentina

***POSTLUDE**

Postludium in D

Gustav Merkel