



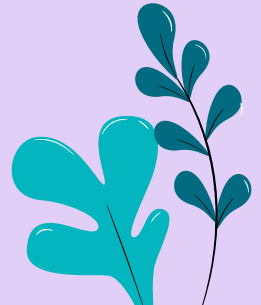
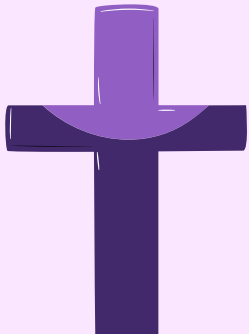
United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield

525 East Front Street/Plainfield,
New Jersey 07060
www.upcplainfield.org/
908-756-2666





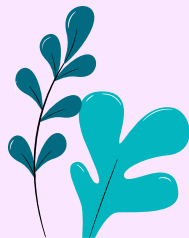
A Lenten Meditation - Robert J. Powell



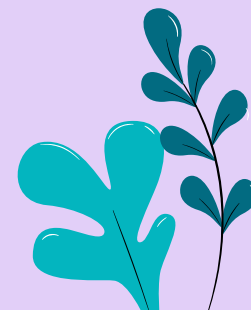
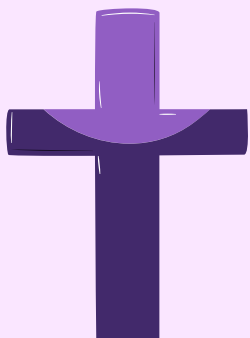


CALL TO WORSHIP (Joel 2: 12-17 (An adaptive reading))

Blow the ram's horn! Announce a time of fasting; call the people together for a solemn meeting. Gather all the people: the elders, the children, and even the babies. Let those, who minister in the LORD's presence, stand, and weep. Let them pray, "Spare your people, LORD!"



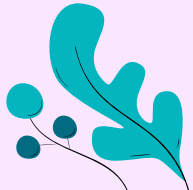
The Powerful Sound of the Shofar 'Heavenly call'



UNISON RESPONSE



Lord, we hear your call. Our hearts are open and ready to follow where you lead.





RESPONSIVE READING

(Adapted from Psalm 126)

(L) Lord, when we witness your demonstration of love manifested in the restoration to wholeness of those whose lives appear shattered and lost, our lips cry “hallelujah!”

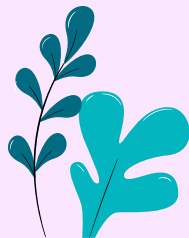
(C) Our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy; all those who witness the transformation say, "The LORD has done great things."

(L) The redeemed, those whose lives you resurrect, rejoice and testify about your amazing goodness and grace without shame.

(C) You restore what the enemy seeks to destroy - relationships, reputations, hope, and life.

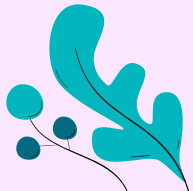
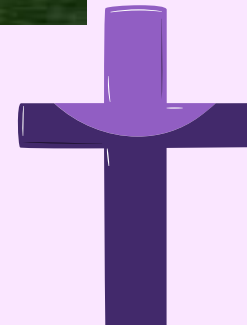
(L) Lord, you are great and greatly to be praised.

(ALL) Glory to your marvelous name!





OPENING HYMN (GTG) # 463, Vs. 1, 3, and 5

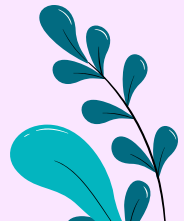




AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

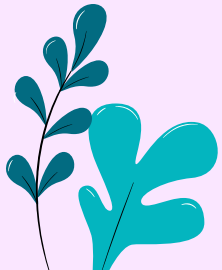
Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son Our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.





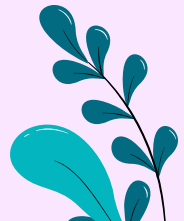
CALL TO CONFESSION





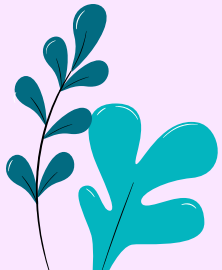
UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION - THE SERENITY PRAYER

God, give us the grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, the courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish one from the other. Help us live one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, and taking as Jesus did this sinful world as it is, not as we would have it. God, help us trust that you will make all things right, If we surrender to your will. Then we may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next.



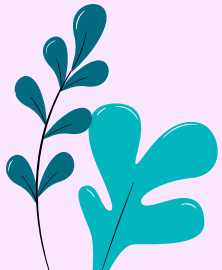


ASSURANCE OF PARDON



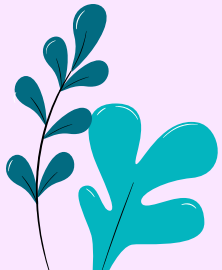


PASSING THE PEACE





PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

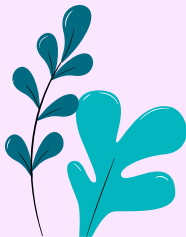


THE WORD OF GOD

Philippians 3: 10-14

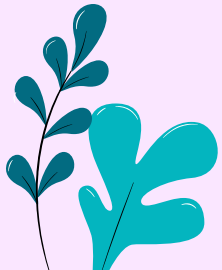


If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin; a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, persecuting the church; as to righteousness in the law, faultless. But whatever was gain to me I count as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things as loss compared to the surpassing excellence of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain the resurrection from the dead. Pressing on toward the Goal. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus.





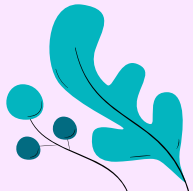
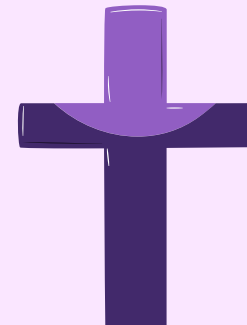
THE MEDITATION





THE COMMUNION HYMN GTG

Let us break Bread together



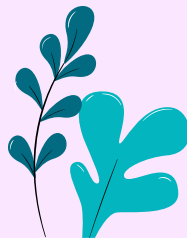
INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

(With gratefulness, today's invitation to the Lord's Supper is borrowed from an Episcopal liturgy)

All glory and honor are yours, O God, for you bring life from death, joy from suffering, and dancing from mourning. We give thanks that abundant life is made known to us and present within us in your son Jesus, who has come to live and die as one of us, to reconcile all creation to life, and life everlasting. By him and with him and in him, the web of your love is made whole, and we with it

Jesus gathered his disciples and said, "Remember me." And so, we do. We remember that he gathered not only his friends but even his betrayer around a common table, sharing the gifts of wheat and vine, the first fruits from the earth. We remember that he offered himself to us, that we may follow him even beyond death into your eternal love.

Gather us now at your table, O God, that we may be sustained in our journey of faith. May these gifts of the earth be for us the gift of your goodness made present, made known. And grant that we who eat this feast may be filled with your life and goodness.





PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

Bread



The body of Christ given for you;

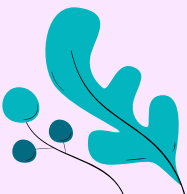
The gifts of God for the
people of God; let us
keep the feast.



Wine



The blood of Christ
poured out for you.





PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer of Adoration



Prayer of Thanksgiving



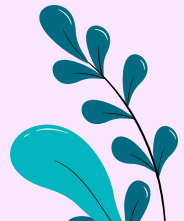
Intercessory Prayer





(U) THE LORD'S PRAYER

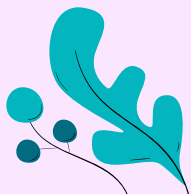
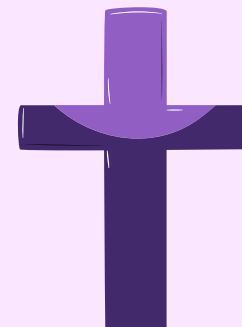
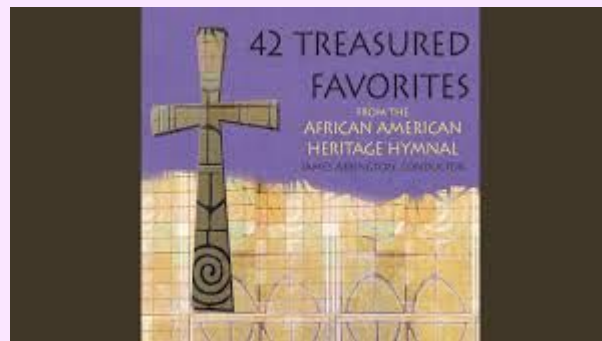
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as
it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and
forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our
debtors. And lead us away from temptation and
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory forever. Amen.





CLOSING HYMN (GTG) # 741

Guide My Feet





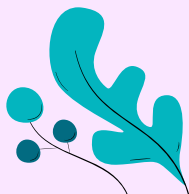
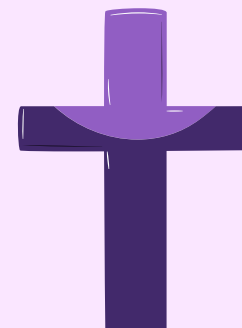
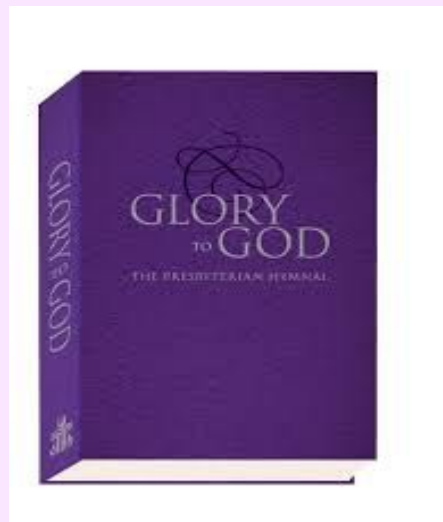
THE BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord make his face continually shine on us. May the Almighty continue to be gracious to us and give us peace.





CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (GTG) # 568





POSTLUDE

Victory In Jesus

