



Bicentennial Celebration

United Presbyterian Church Plainfield
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Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

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The background is a solid dark blue. It features several decorative elements: a 3x3 grid of small white dots in the top-left corner; a large white 'O' in the top-right corner; a white cross in the bottom-right corner; and a large white 'O' in the bottom-left corner. Four light blue L-shaped borders are positioned at the corners of the page. Three small, four-pointed gold stars are scattered around the central text: one above the 'GTG' box, one to the left, and one to the right.

**GTG
625**

How Great Thou Art

Prelude



Welcome to the United Presbyterian Church Plainfield's, 200th Anniversary celebration service. Whether you are joining us in person or virtually, whether you are a member, a friend who worships with us frequently, or this is your first time worshipping with us, we thank God for your presence. Please join me in reading responsively the opening prayer, inspired by Psalm 100:5 and one of the ancient hymns of the church, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past." The prayer is printed in your bulletin and projected on the screen. I will read the light print, you will read the bold print.



WELCOME

Opening Prayer

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come— we gather today in awe and gratitude, remembering Your steadfast love that has carried this church through two centuries of worship, witness, and change.

You have been our shelter from the stormy blast, our eternal home in every season. Through trials and triumphs, through mergers and milestones, Your faithfulness has endured.

We, the people of God, declare: The Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

Lord, we thank You for the saints who came before us, for the congregations that became one, for the Spirit who wove our stories into a single, living witness. As we mark this holy milestone, may we not only remember who we've been, but also rejoice in who we're becoming.

Lord, this worship is a celebration of Your grace, a testimony to Your truth, and a renewal of our calling and commitment to persevere in Christ.

Amen.

Announcements

Morning devotions

Morning devotions are held Monday through Friday at 6:00 AM via Zoom.

UPC Christian Book Club

The UPC Christian Book Club will meet on Sunday evenings at 7:30 PM via Zoom, beginning next Sunday. Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers is the book we will read and discuss.

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Thursday Midweek Service

Our midweek service takes place on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM via YouTube.

Annual Flea Market

The Annual Flea Market will be held next Saturday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For additional information, please get in touch with the church office or visit our website.

Responsive Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with singing.

We rejoice in God's faithfulness, who has sustained this congregation for Ou.

Acknowledge, the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. We belong to God, and we give thanks for every generation that has walked in His light. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and bless His name.

We praise the Lord with grateful hearts, for He has led us through seasons of change and grace. For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

We worship the God who does not change, who calls us to persevere, and who leads us into what's next.



The Church Is One Foundation

Opening Hymn (GTG)

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Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. 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 Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Unison Scripture Reading

Because you have kept My command to persevere, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold fast to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. The one who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will never again leave it. Upon him I will write the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God (the new Jerusalem that comes down out of heaven from My God), and My new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.



As we ready our hearts to pray together, I invite you to enter a few moments of silent reflection, accompanied by the timeless hymn 'Here I Am, Lord,' played by Ms. Donna Garzinsky. Our shared reading of the prayer of confession will follow.



Call to Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, we approach Your throne of grace with gratitude and humility. You are our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, faithful across generations, merciful in every season.



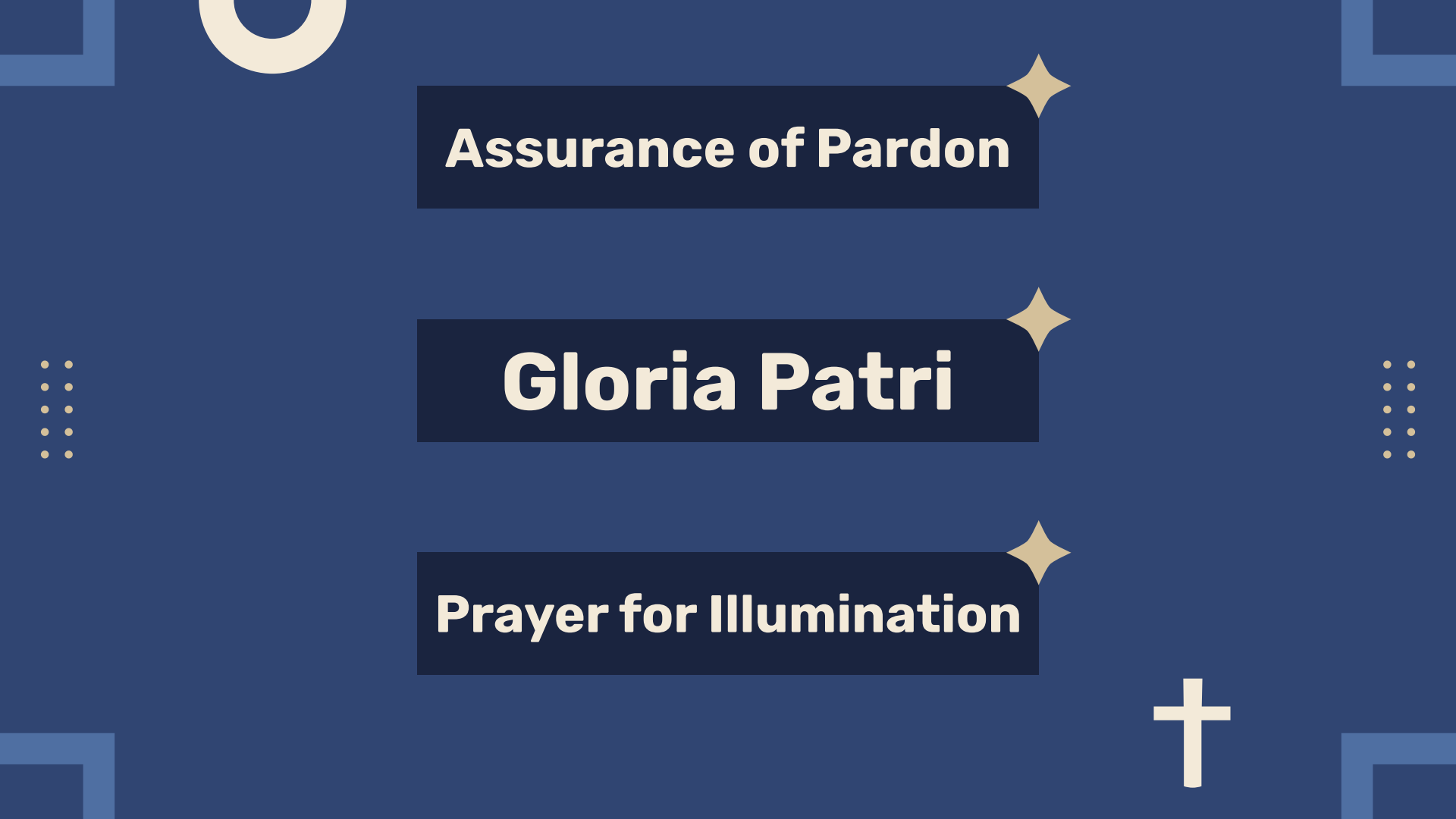
We thank You for the daily miracles that surround us, for the beauty of creation, for the diversity of life, for the breath and rhythm of each new day.

Lord, we confess: we have not always honored Your image in one another. We have turned away from Your call to justice, hesitated in the face of change, and neglected the sacred trust You placed in our care.

Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have failed to nurture what You have created, for the moments we have resisted Your Spirit's leading, for the ways we have clung to comfort instead of courage.

Renew us, O God, that we may walk boldly into the next chapter of our life together, as co-nurturers of Your creation, as bearers of Your truth, as a people shaped by grace and sent in love. We pray in the mighty and holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.





Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

Prayer for Illumination



Duet by



Ms. Sue Terry and Elder Marcia Marsh-Hinds



The Sermonic Text

**Therefore, my dear
brothers and sisters, stand
firm. Let nothing move you.**

1 Corinthians 15:58

**Always give yourselves
fully to the work of the
Lord, because you know
that your labor in the Lord
is not in vain.**



Morning Message



Call to Discipleship



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Let Us Break Bread Together

COMMUNION HYMN

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 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, 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 his friends and his betrayer around a common table, sharing the gifts of wheat and vine, the first fruits of the earth. We remember that he offered himself to us so that we may follow him even beyond death into your eternal love.

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



PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS



Bread

This bread represents the body
of Christ that was broken for us.
Take eat it all.



Wine

This juice represents the blood
of Christ that was shed for us.
Take drink it all.

✦

**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 away from temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine art the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.





Worship through Giving



A Mighty Fortress is Our God

The Closing Hymn

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Benediction

May the Lord bless us and keep us. May His face shine continually upon us, and His grace abound in every season of our life together. May He guide us to walk in the peace of Christ, a peace that surpasses all understanding, and the joy of the Lord, which sustains us from generation to generation.





Amen

Congregational Response