

First Presbyterian Church

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This week's spiritual is "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?" The story of Daniel in the lions' den is the basis for the song. Daniel was a victim of manipulative conspirators who flattered and deceived a weak king and thereby established an unjust law. Forbidden to pray to God, but determined to obey God, Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. For his perseverance in prayer and faithfulness to God, Daniel was delivered from death by the power of God. The enslaved people who created this song surely thought that if God could deliver Daniel from his undeserved fate, God would deliver them from the unjust laws of that kept them enslaved. Later generations sang the song as an expression of hope and trust that God would deliver them from systematic racism and institutionalized oppression. The song's refrain asks, "Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel? And why not every man?" The question rings in our ears today: if God was able to deliver Daniel, will God deliver me? And what is my role in providing a path of deliverance for those who are oppressed, enslaved, excluded or downtrodden? Indeed if God has delivered us, then we have a responsibility to bring that liberation and deliverance to others. Why not every man?



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Christina Berry

Ministers - All the People

April 3, 2022

God's People Gather

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Response I Want Jesus To Walk With Me

***Opening Song** God Will Make A Way

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you have been faithful to your beloved children through generations, from age to age, and we have continually let you down. We fail to live rightly; we give up on hope; we lack love. When our faith is challenged, we keep silent, and when we see injustice, we turn away. When a life of discipleship becomes too hard, we surrender; when faced with a threat, we fall away. Forgive us, God! Help us to see that our lives, our hope, our love, all come from you. Help us to face fear with perseverance and trust in your mercy, which never falters. We pray in the name of the one who walks with us: Jesus.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of God's love and presence. "Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of anything, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; God will not fail you or forsake you." Know that God's mercy is yours.

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

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

***Response** Peace Song

God's Word is Proclaimed

Children's Time

Scripture Readings Daniel 6

Sermon

Responding to God's Word

Offering

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Leader: We lift up our prayers to you for all the world...for our community...for those whom we name in silence... and all these prayers we offer in the strong name of the one who taught us to pray saying:

All: The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer after the Supper

All: God of love and life, you have fed us on the body and blood of your son Jesus. Strengthen us now in perseverance and in prayer, that we may boldly stand for your truth: the truth that grace and love and mercy are for all people.

God's People Are Sent

***Closing Song** Beloved I Have Blessed You

*Benediction

Leader: And let all God's People say...

People: Alleluia, Amen!

***Response** Walk With Me This Day, Lord

Postlude