



“Worship from Home” for March 7, 2021 Third Sunday in Lent & Communion Sunday



The Ten Commandments, do we really understand what they mean? This **Sunday, March 7**, we continue our Lenten journey of God's Promises, this week focusing on God's promise of guidance in our lives. In our exploration, we will consider how these ten sayings are more than commandments. We examine how these words, God's words, are invitations into a life in covenant with God and one another. For our liberation from all that enslaves us, we are given these words as gifts of guidance for living and communing together. Please join us as we live out and experience God's promises in our worship and fellowship together.

A NOTE ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE: As the service closes each Sunday during Lent, we will continue to hear the song, "In the Bulb, There is a Flower." We invite you to continue to reflect upon the idea that sometimes God's promises are out of sight yet exist within the bulb, always promising a flower. Join us each week as we walk the Lenten walk, watching God's promised flower bloom.

NOTE: We encourage the preparation of your elements for communion prior to beginning your time of worship today.

TIP: If you prefer to have the videos open in a new window, hold the “CTRL” key and click the link.

Worship Together on Zoom

At **10:00 am on Sunday morning**, we will worship together on Zoom, walking through an abridged version of the service below. If you wish to join us, **please log in at 9:50am** so that we have time to greet one another and take our virtual seats. Please [click here to join a Zoom videoconference](#), then enter the password: 243520. You can also call in to Zoom by phone: dial 1-669-900-6833 and when prompted, enter the meeting code 91476102408 and password 243520.

COMING TOGETHER IN SPIRIT

Centering Words

Choose a comfortable, quiet place free from interruption. Invite family members or friends to gather with you. If desired, have a candle, lighter, and Bible nearby. You are invited to light a candle as a reminder of the promises of God.

Give thanks for the promise of God’s guidance and how it brings wisdom and joy to your life.

Now...you are invited to dance before God, it is a joyous thing to fulfill the law of God!

Video: Prelude

“Fairest Lord Jesus” by Chris Rice, performed by Chad Kemp

As you listen to the music, take time in silence to come fully into God’s presence.

Opening Prayer

Read these words silently or say them aloud:

Speak once more, O God, of the ways of life and death. For your law is perfect, reviving the soul. Your commandments are trustworthy, saving the ignorant from folly. Guide me each and every day, that I might worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Video: Opening Song

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” performed by Andy Riggs

Video: Moment for Children of All Ages

“So Deeply Loved” with the Rev. Nancy Conklin

Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer *(Seasons of the Spirit)*

We thank you, God,
for you created stories that spark the imagination,
laws that revive our souls,

Commandments that enlighten our hearts,
and traditions that make us hunger and thirst for justice.

We thank you for the miracles in our daily lives that renew our spirits and remind us of your steadfast goodness: *(name people, things, and situations)*.

As Jesus protested the abuse of your laws, may we also question practices, customs and traditions that are not in-line with your teachings and covenant.

We thank you for this Lenten journey, may we never forget why we journey and what we are journeying towards.

We ask all of these things in the name of Jesus, our Savior, who taught us to pray saying...

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as is it in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.*

[Video: Special Music](#)

"To God Be the Glory" by William H. Doane, arr. Bernadine Johnson, performed by Amber Joy Weber

LISTENING TO OUR STILL SPEAKING GOD

Scripture: Exodus 20:2-5a, 7a, 8-10a, 12-17

Open your Bible, or if you do not have one, read aloud or silently the words below:

Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. Six days you may work and do all your tasks, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God.

Honor your father and mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Do not kill.

Do not commit adultery.

Do not steal.

Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.

Do not desire and try to take...anything...that belongs to your neighbor.

Video: Sermon

“Promised Guidance” by Pastor Mary Sue Brookshire (for [written transcript](#) click here)

SHARING AT THE TABLE

Each month, we offer two options for sharing in communion together. You are invited to join the Sunday morning Zoom gathering at 10:00am, where Pastor Mary Sue will lead communion in real time to all participants. You may also opt to view the communion video provided below. Please prepare your bread, crackers, juice, or whatever you have and join us for a celebration of Communion.

Video: [Communion](#)

Prayer of Confession (Shuman)

Even with those simple commandments, Eternal Love, we manage to get it wrong. We misuse your name on an almost daily basis, and dishonor our friends and neighbors by talking behind their backs. We hunger for what others have, and think we can put you in a box, storing you away on a shelf. We find little enough time for our families, for ourselves, you – much less setting aside an entire day for that rest you call Sabbath.

Forgive us, Abiding Love. We think we are so wise with the choices we make, only to end up with all that keeps us from you. Your Word has come, to fill our speech with grace, with hope, with peace. As we journey to Jerusalem, may we invite others to join us as we seek to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior.

Words of Assurance (Shuman)

Day to day, God offers us mercy and hope.
Moment to moment,
we are surrounded by God’s never-ending love.
Friends, trust this Good News for you!
god takes our brokenhearted prayers
and crafts them into words of grace, of joy, of peace.

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

Invitation to Offering

Here at POVUCCC we take an offering. You are never obligated to give, but invited to do so – either by making an electronic gift through the link below or by sending a check, or prayerfully offering to give of your time or talents. These gifts allow us to be the church in this time and in

this place. If you would like to make a financial contribution to the ministries of POVUCC, online giving is available by clicking [here](#).

Prayer of Dedication

I invite you into this prayerful moment as we dedicate those gifts we have given and those we will give:

Gracious God, bless these, our gifts. May they be a beacon of light. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Video: Closing Song

“All My Hope on God is Founded” performed by Andy Riggs

Benediction

Dance before God.

Following God’s commandments fills the soul with joy.

From the folly of ignorance,

God offers the promise of guidance—

guidance in the ways of life.

Video: Sending Song

“In the Bulb There is a Flower” performed by Andy Riggs

Video: Postlude

“Near the Cross” (Theme and Variations), performed by Chad Kemp

During these final moments, consider how God’s promised guidance has lead you to come into the fullness of your own humanity, living in loving relationship with God and others.

Worship adapted from the following resources:

Seasons of the Spirit: Wood Lake Publishing Inc, 2020

Worship at Home: Lent 2021 A Season of Promise by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. Used by permission.

Lectionary Liturgies, Thom Shuman