



Prodigal Son (John August Swanson)

March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Ministers
Pastor
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Director of Faith Formation Ministries
Director of Preschool
Maintenance Superintendent
Administrator/Recording Treasurer

All the People of Covenant
Rev. Rachel H. Vogado
Richard Rudolph
Ronn Lowe
Jewel Aagaard
Anne Craig
Mark Overacker
Gail Schuler

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Loving God, Loving People, Making Disciples

Gathering

**Please stand as you are able*

*Chiming of the Hour and Presentation of the Word

Prelude

"Love Unknown"
Matthew Corl

Welcome and Covenant Life

*During our morning announcements,
please take time to pass and sign the friendship pads.*

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

Introit

"The Heavens Proclaim"
arr. Hal H. Hopson

*Call to Worship

One: The season of Lent sets us on a journey with Jesus,
which brings us face to face
with some of our own distractions and wanderings.

**All: Let us worship God and walk this wilderness journey together,
seeking the Spirit as our guide and companion along the way.**

One: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies are new every morning.

**All: We are a new creation in Jesus Christ;
the old has passed away, the new has come.**

One: This is a day for forgiveness and reconciliation;
celebrate God's love for the lost who are found,

**All: The glad cries of deliverance surround us;
shouts of joy arise from our hearts.**

One: May we find a place called home,
a place where faith holds us, and grace renews us,
where forgiveness longs for us to be who God wills us to be.

**All: May this be that place, O God,
this community, this group of travelers and doubters
and companions on the way,
who have gathered to worship the Lord!**

*Hymn #440

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*unison prayer and silent confession*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the prodigal son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the Earth for our home, but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance. In your grace you offer us forgiveness even before we have the chance to articulate our sorrow. You embrace us in all our sinfulness and in doing so give us the chance to start again, to learn from the example you have given us in Jesus. Draw our wandering hearts back to you, that we may find freedom in following your will and sharing your love. Through Christ our Lord, we pray...

*In the conversation of silence,
speak your love to us as we open our hearts to you.*

Declaration of Forgiveness

***Passing of the Peace** (*Greet one another, "Peace be with you."*)

Children are invited to come forward.

Time with Our Children

Jewel Aagaard, Director of Faith Formation

*Children ages 4 – 11 may leave for Children's Worship
and will return during the last hymn.*

Teaching

- *Hymn #771** "What Is the World Like"
Prayer for Illumination Will Dibling
Old Testament Reading Psalm 32 (Pew Bible, OT pp. 470-471)
Gospel Reading Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (Pew Bible, NT pp. 67-68)
One: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God
Sermon "Prodigal Promises" Rev. Rachel H. Vogado

***Affirmation of Faith** (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

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. 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. 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. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

- Anthem** "The Lord Is My Light"
arr. Glenn A. Pickett

Nurturing

Celebration of Giving+

- Offertory** "Concerto in C major"
Antonio Vivaldi
Ray Zubler, bassoon; Ronn Lowe, piano

- *Doxology, #552** "Holy, Holy, Holy"
***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession with the Lord's Prayer

Reaching

- *Hymn #475** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

***Charge and Benediction**

Trinity Chimes

Our Trinity Chimes played before the postlude provide the opportunity to sit and enjoy the end of our service with music, or to exit quietly as our Livestream continues for this part of worship.

- Postlude** "Aberystwyth (Jesus, Love of My Soul)"
Ashley Grote

Music Notes from Ronn Lowe: One of the hymns we are singing today is "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" with the hymn tune "Aberystwyth." It is another one of those hymn tunes that has a strange looking name, but it was actually named after the seaside resort in Wales where Joseph Parry composed this hymn in 1876. It is in a minor key, which is often associated with pieces sung or played in Lent. Our postlude today is a stirring arrangement of this hymn as well, arranged by Ashley Grote. Born in Essex, England in 1982, he became Master of Music at Norwich Cathedral in 2012. (Master of Music in England is often referred to as Director of Music in this country.) Before starting his position at Norwich Cathedral, Ashley was Assistant Organist at Westminster Abbey and Gloucester Cathedral.

Welcome! We are blessed to have you join our worship today, and we hope to keep seeing you! More information about Covenant is available on our website at covenantroanoke.org and you can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter. We would love to get to know you better, and a card is available in the pew before you to begin this journey together.

Greetings, Parents! Children are always welcome in our worship services. If you so choose, a professionally staffed nursery is available for children ages 3 and younger. Please ask an usher for assistance. **We also have a Parents Room** just outside the Sanctuary with a changing table, rocking chairs, and toys. **You will find special Children's bulletins and activity bags** on the table in Heritage Hall. **Children's Worship is offered** during the second half of the service for children ages 4 to 11.

You are invited to share your Joys and Concerns by writing them in the book on the stand outside the sanctuary. These will be included in the Prayers of the People during our worship service. (If you have a concern of a personal nature, please speak with the pastor or contact the office.)

Join us for Mingle and Munch! After worship, all are welcome to gather in Heritage Hall (the entrance area) to visit with church members and guests while enjoying light refreshments. **Special thanks to the Earth Care Team for hosting this morning!**

*We extend our sympathy and prayers to our dear member
Llewellyn Hoge Scull and family on the passing of
her beloved husband, Barry Scull, on Friday, March 21, 2025.
A service was held yesterday in Roanoke.*

*We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of
our beloved "Miss Kathy" (Kathy Akers Roberts), teacher and assistant director
with Covenant Presbyterian Preschool for more than 34 years, who passed
away on Monday, March 24, 2025.
A memorial service was held on Friday in Roanoke.*

Elder of the Month: Jeff Cutright
Deacon of the Month: Jinx Weary
Assistant Deacon of the Month: Lynn McGhee



In Our Prayers...Congregation: Pamela Alden, Audrey Bashlor, Todd Baumgardner, Christine Beck, Jim Eaton, Mary Jane Fisher, Dick Frahm, Lynnmarie Hancock, Walter Jones, Marion Kepley, Jerry Lawson, Lindsey Nanz, Carol Ryan, Brian Slack, June and Forrest Smith, Jinx Weary, Jo Wilson, Betty Young, Ray Zubler, caregivers, military service members and families
Family & Friends: Greg Adcox, Rob Ahlers, Lowell Bashlor, Jr., Kenneth Benner, Mike Cummings, Patrick Dooley, Maria Dreiling, Cesia Enriquez, Heather Ford, Debbie Helms, Jo Jones, Pauline Mudrick, Ezra Schuyler Soto, Judy Talley, Joe Wallace, Daniel Woodbury, Religious violence against Christians in northeast India, Mission co-workers Tyler & Rochelle Holm and the people of Malawi, Jim McGill (Niger)

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