

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Lent and the Lord's Prayer

During the six Sundays of Lent, we will continue to look at the teachings of Jesus in Matthew's gospel; linking them to the way that Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

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 not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

Examen Prayer: Free me from dishonesty, O God, so I can live with truth.

PRELUDES *Meditation on "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"* John Barr
Prelude on Bethany Franklin D. Ashdown

WELCOME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

MOMENT OF EXAMEN

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #743

O God, You Are My God *Step by Step*

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways. And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

By David Strasser (Beaker) / ©1991 by BMG Songs, Inc. / CCL #11043756

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to sanctify ourselves.

All: We come seeking to be worthy of our call.

One: The Lord looks not at our outward selves,

All: But seeks to know what is in our hearts.

One: Let us learn what is pleasing to the Lord,

All: That we might live as children of the Most High.

***OPENING SONG #451** *Open My Eyes, That I May See* *Open My Eyes*
(verse 1)

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me. Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

*Please stand as you are able.

(verse 2)

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear. And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

(verse 3)

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere. Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

CALL TO CONFESSION

We know our actions are just when the fruits of our labors are good and true. Christ is the light that exposes all we keep hidden, offering us not judgment but healing and renewal. Therefore, let us hold up our sins to Christ's gaze:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we can predict, but forget that you do what is good, not what is expected. Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles. Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions. Most of all, forgive us when we do not respond to your call, ignoring what we need to do to show the world your gracious love.

(Moment of Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (adapted from Psalm 23)

One: Jesus restores our souls and leads us in right paths for his name's sake. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives long. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #695**

Change My Heart, O God *Change My Heart*
**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart,
O God; may I be like you. You are the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

By Eddie Espinosa / ©1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (admin. in North America Music Services) / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (from Romans 5:1-2a)**

One: "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand." May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

*Please stand as you are able.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word and Spirit through these forty days that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 78:1-7*

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might and the wonders that he has done. ⁵ He established a decree in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children, ⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, ⁷ so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

CHORAL ANTHEM

This I Know

Berry

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other young women came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹² But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

MESSAGE

“Thy Kingdom Come”

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

SONG OF RESPONSE #742

We Will Walk with God

Sizohamba Naye

We will walk with God, my brothers; we will walk with God. We will walk with God, my sisters; we will walk with God. We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come. We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

WITNESS

CALL TO OFFERING

We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available in the narthex for making monetary donations.

OFFERTORY *Arise, Heirs of the Kingdom* J.S. Bach

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SENDING SONG #362** *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers* Llangloffan
(verse 1)

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing and darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising and soon he will draw nigh. Up, watch with expectation; at midnight comes the cry.
(verse 2)

See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil; look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand; arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand!
(verse 3)

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere! With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *We Say "Amen"* Choplin

POSTLUDE *I Love Your Kingdom, Lord* Gerhard Krapf

**Please stand as you are able.*

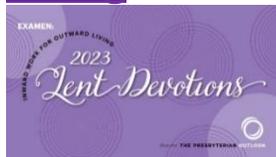
ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers

The flowers are dedicated by Marilyn & Dave Rodenhausen in honor of family birthdays and their anniversary.

2023 Lenten Devotional – Examen: Inward Work for Outward Living



This daily Lenten devotional is written by Teri McDowell Ott, editor of Presbyterian Outlook, and explores the ancient spiritual practice of examen that focuses on honest assessment and reflection. With a different theme for each week of Lent, readers are invited to explore the connection between internal contemplation and outward action.

Themes include examining our fear to live with faith; examining our pain to live with healing; examining our dishonesty to live with truth; examining our joy to live with gratitude; examining our love to live with heart; and examining our burdens to live with blessing.

Each daily reflection will combine personal reflection with meditation, visualization, and short prayers. The prayers can be used as mantras or breath prayers: breathe in praying the first phrase, breathe out praying the last.

Each Sunday worship service during Lent will, also, include a short time of meditation and examen. Printed devotions will be available before Lent, and will be included in the weekly email – or can be accessed online as an e-book.

Guest Preacher – Sunday, March 26



On Sunday, March 26, we welcome back Amber Balista, our former seminary intern, who has now completed her Master of Divinity studies at Dubuque Presbyterian Seminary and is on the road to ordination. Amber is an active member at Christ Presbyterian Church in Chesterland and is part of their contemplative prayer group.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, March 31, 2023

(10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, April 1, 2023

(10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items in March to help stock the shelves at the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



Eggs, butter, bacon, potatoes (whole or frozen cubed), pancake mix, syrup, and bread.

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations.



Fellowship Time

You're welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall after the service for coffee and conversation!

Health and Safety Protocols

With the return to in-person worship services, we ask you to follow these guidelines:

- Windows may be open or fans turned on to provide appropriate air circulation.
- When inside the church building, face coverings are optional based on personal comfort level.
 - Socially distance as able in the pews and sanctuary.
 - If you are not feeling well today, please stay home.
- At this time, we will not be the offering plate or holding hands for the benediction at the close of the service.
- After the worship service has concluded, we ask that you move outside for any extended conversations.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Any changes to these protocols will be shared in advance of Sunday gatherings.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

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