

March 26, 2023

Fifth 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 this burden, O God, so I can live with your blessing.

PRELUDES

A Lenten Prelude *Giovanni Pergolesi*
(arr. John Troutman)
Voluntary on Martyrdom *Franklin D. Ashdown*

WELCOME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

MOMENT OF EXAMEN

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #205

Live in Charity (sing twice) *Ubi Caritas (Taizé)*
Live in charity and steadfast love.
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, Holy God, and transform your church,
All: To be a living sign of your love for the world -
One: Where the poor are filled with good things,
All: The dividing walls are broken down,
One: And the dead are risen to new life;
All: Through Jesus Christ our Savior.

***OPENING SONG #766**

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound *MC Kee*
(verse 1)

The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone. Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

*Please stand as you are able.

(verse 2)

True faith will open up the door and step into the street. True service will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.

(verse 3)

True love will not sit idly by when justice is denied. True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside.

(verse 4)

If what we have we freely share to meet our neighbor's need, then we extend the Spirit's care through every selfless deed.

(verse 5)

The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone. Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus says: Ask and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. Trusting in God's grace, let us, together, confess our sin:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sometimes wandered from your ways. You call us to share from what we have and work together for the common good, but we hoard up treasures for ourselves and deny others their daily bread. You call us to set the captives free and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear of our neighbors and hide ourselves from others. You call us to walk in the newness of life and to be witnesses to the resurrection, but we dwell in the valley of dry bones and keep silent about your saving love. Forgive us, God of grace. Set us free from sin, death, and fear so that we may serve you with gladness through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Moment of Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #71**

Surely, It is God Who Saves Me
(refrain)

First Song

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.

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***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

Matthew 25:31-40

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’

CHORAL ANTHEM

Is This The King

Martin

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:41-46

⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

MESSAGE

“Hallowed Be Thy Name”

Amber Balista

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Responsive)**

One: Loving God, we remember that Jesus taught us to pray saying, “Our Father ...”

All: You created us, you made this world, and you called your Creation very good. Yet, often we forget that you are our loving Parent who continues to bless your world.

One: Jesus told us that you are “... in heaven ...”

All: Yet, we fail to live in awe of you. We take you for granted, and we don’t see the awesome beauty of the world you have made.

One: We pray, “Hallowed be your name...”

All: We confess that our reverence for you does not always lead us to care reverently for your earth, sky and sea.

One: We pray, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...”

All: We confess that we often put our own interests first — exploiting your Creation and living for our own convenience and self-interest.

One: We pray, “Give us today our daily bread.”

All: We confess that we consume more than our share of the world’s resources, while billions go hungry every day and your whole Creation suffers.

One: We pray, “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.”

All: We confess that we see these words only in spiritual terms, while the Bible is filled with teachings about economic justice and Creation care.

One: We pray, “Save us from the time of trial.”

All: Help us to resist the temptations of spending more, using more, acquiring more and wasting more.

One: We pray, “Deliver us from evil...”

All: Free us from greed and self-centeredness that separate us from you and others.

One: We pray, “For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.”

All: Help us to know that in caring for your wonderful world, we are working for your kingdom, being good stewards of your creative power and giving you glory.

One: Silently or aloud, let us present our requests to God...We pray, “Amen.”

All: We end our prayers with “Amen,” a word that means “let it be so.” We know we can be faithful disciples by your grace. 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

Offertory in G Minor

Johann Krieger

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*Please stand as you are able.

***The Lord’s Prayer and Creation Care* – Revs. Bruce and Carolyn Gillette.

***SENDING SONG #757**

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples Kingsfold
(verse 1)

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord, to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword, to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

(verse 3)

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream, with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem. For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease, a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

(verse 4)

May we in service to our God act out the living word, and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard. As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

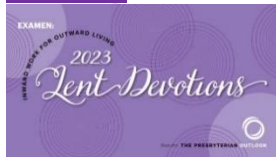
***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *We Say "Amen"* Choplin

POSTLUDE *Toccata in F Major* Dietrich Buxtehude
(arr. Dennis Eliot)

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 are available, and will be included in the weekly email – or can be accessed online as an e-book.

Guest Preacher – Today, March 26



Today, 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.)

Friday, April 21, 2023 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, April 22, 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.

Holy Week Schedule

April 2

Palm Sunday

Special Worship including Palm Procession and Percussion

April 6

Maundy Thursday

7 p.m. Tenebrae Communion Service in Fellowship Hall

April 7

Good Friday

Chagrin Valley Council of Churches

Ecumenical, Outdoor Stations of the Cross Walk – noon

Chagrin Falls Triangle Park

April 9

Easter Sunday Celebration Month

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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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Lynn Fagerholm

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Bernice Denham