



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PEWEE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT – FEBRUARY 25, 2018

10:30 A.M.

Bold text is read or sung by the congregation.

**Please stand if able.*

PVPC welcomes children and encourages them to participate in our entire worship service. Pick up a children's worship tote bag at the sanctuary door.

Lent, meaning "spring" begins on Ash Wednesday, the Wednesday before the sixth Sunday before Easter. Lent was referred to for the first time by the Council of Nicea in 325 C.E. as an extended fast before the Passover and as a period of preparation for baptism.

Lenten disciplines traditionally include fasting, prayer, the study of scripture, and the giving of alms. We invite you to pick up a *Lenten Devotional* and the *One Great Hour of Sharing* bank and giving guide in the back of our sanctuary after worship.

The origin of bells in Christian worship can be traced to the ram's horns and silver trumpets used in the Old Testament to announce the beginning of a feast. In churches which are fortunate enough to have them, bells are rung just before the liturgy to call the people together.

During the Prelude on the six Sundays of Lent, meditate on the "Lenten Welcome" and how you may more faithfully engage the world in your Easter life.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

CONSIDERING LENT: 2018

Unlike the Christmas season with all its parties, running around, buying presents, baking cookies, and decorating, the season of Lent is a slower time, a time of reflection, self-examination, and commitment. The traditional forty days of Lent offer people a chance to focus on how to live a more Christian life.

Use these moments before the ringing of the bell to greet your neighbor and consider:
How might you live a more Christian life?

The Walk, Ann Weems
(from Kneeling in Jerusalem)

Those of us who walk along this road do so reluctantly. Lent is not our favorite time of year.

We'd rather be more active – planning and scurrying around. All this is too contemplative to suit us. Besides, we don't know what to do with piety and prayer.

Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think, for thoughts come unbidden. Perhaps we're afraid to face our future knowing our past.

Give us courage, O God, to your word and to read our living into it. Give us the trust to know we're forgiven, and give us the faith to take up our lives and walk.

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

A LENTEN WELCOME

Pastor: We have each gone our own way. You have, and you have, and I have, too. We have each chosen, at least once, the path of disobedience. We have each, at least once, sat angry and dissatisfied in the midst of costly and precious gifts.

People: **We have each gone our own way. Christ have mercy.**

The prelude is a new arrangement based on a 10th century Gregorian chant. The first verse of this Lenten morning prayer likens Christ to the sun: "Now Christ, Thou sun of righteousness, let dawn our darkened spirits bless, the light of grace to us restore while day to earth returns once more."

Our opening hymn was written by Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008), a Presbyterian minister who grew up in Hanover, IN. She wrote over 200 hymns for the church emphasizing inclusive language for God and all people, creation and peacemaking.

In the presence of a holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.

The "Kyrie" is derived from several New Testament scriptures (Mt. 15:22, Mk. 12:46, Lk 18:13) where those in need cry out to Jesus to "Have mercy." The phrase became the basis for this liturgical prayer.

We express gratitude that through God's grace and Christ's giving of himself on the cross we are forgiven and restored to God and one another.

We sing in thanksgiving for the gifts of forgiveness and new life. During the Lenten season we remain seated, aware that the only adequate response to this "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

PRELUDE "Jam, Christie, sol justitae"

GERALD NEAR

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christiaan Faul

Leader: We gather this day to worship our God, whose words and ways challenge us.

People: We come to worship our Creator, seeking to have our faith challenged into growth.

Leader: Our faith is rooted in our worship together.

People: Gathered together we find nourishment for our spirits in this growing season of Lent.

ALL: LET US WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 274

"O God of Earth and Space"

LEONI

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: We come before you, O God, in the shadow of the cross, grateful for your great love for us.

People: As you came to us in Jesus, reveal yourself among us still. Hear our prayer...

Merciful God, we confess that we have not been sincere Christians. We claim to follow Jesus but have not taken his path of sacrificial love. We profess to be disciples, but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship. We affirm the virtue of self-denial, but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for sincere repentance through Christ, our Lord. In his name, hear our silent prayers of return ... *(a time of silence for personal confession)*

KYRIE, Hymn No. 574

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our hearts are washed anew in the healing waters of God's love.

People: For the steadfast love of God endures forever ...

Leader: Through the Holy Spirit, God nourishes us into life.

People: For the steadfast love of God endures forever ...

ALL: WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS?

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE, HYMN NO. 85 (first stanza, seated)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

HEARING GOD'S WORD

We invite children to come to the front at this time.

Billings was one of the first major American composers. He was born and died in Boston (1746-1800). The music and words of this hymn (based on John 11:35,38) were the fruits of the lively cultural scene in Boston during an era of growing colonial unrest.

These few stanzas are among the least florid of the two dozen that make up the rather flamboyant paraphrase of Psalm 136 written by fifteen-year-old John Milton, who would become one of the greatest English poets of all time. It is set here to a sprightly tune with Moravian connections.

The Iona Community is an ecumenical Christian community that is committed to seeking new ways of living the Gospel in today's world. Founded in 1938, the community now has over 250 members, women and men, lay and ordained, from many backgrounds and different church traditions. At the three residential centers – on Iona and on the Ross of Mull – guests are welcomed from March through October and over Christmas.

We bring to God our joys and concerns, praying for the world, the church and those close to us.

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Shawn Harmon

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Chancel Choir

“When Jesus Wept”

WILLIAM BILLINGS

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 6:5-7 (and 8)

(Page 5, OT, Pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON GRIEVED TO THE HEART

Reverend Joel Weible

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*PROCLAMATION HYMN NO. 244

“Let Us with a Gladsome Mind”

MONKLAND

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from THE IONA COMMUNITY

With the whole church ...

We affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, and empowered by the Spirit.

With people everywhere ...

We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

With all creation ...

We affirm and celebrate the miracle and wonder of life and the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world. Amen.

TIME OF GIVING THANKS

CELEBRATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.
Amen.

Written around 1779, "Amazing Grace" expresses writer John Newton's personal experience of conversion from sin, as an act of God's grace. He wrote, "I can see no reason why the Lord singled me out for mercy...unless it was to show, by one astonishing instance, that with him 'nothing is impossible.'"

Doxology literally means "words of glory." Doxologies have long been used by Jews and Christians to praise God. Here we honor and thank God "from whom all blessings flow."

The closing hymn was written by John Dalles in South Bend, for the 150th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of South Bend, Indiana, which he was serving as associate pastor at the time (1984).

The congregation held a big anniversary dinner and worship at the South Bend Convention Center—the hymn was sung there and has been sung by that church often as their theme hymn.

This is Bach's version of Hymn No. 282, "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee." The words of the hymn express optimism and trust, sentiments that are not so easily translated into music.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Amazing Grace"

DAVID CHERWIEN

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise *Him, all crea-tures
here be-low; Praise *Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;
Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

* Or "God"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of all true power and glory, we thank you that once again we travel with Jesus toward Jerusalem, not with a sword to challenge the powers of this world, but with Love to transform them. May these gifts be a sign of the offering of our whole selves in this season. Amen.

DECENNIUM: 2018 Annual Meeting

Please be sure to get your written reports from an usher
(Visitors and Guests Welcome!)

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 418

"God, Bless Your Church with Strength!"

ICH HALTE TREULICH STILL

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Reverend Joel Weible

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE "Wer nur den lieben Gott" (BWV 642)

J.S. BACH

PLEASE NOTE: Food and drinks are not allowed in the Sanctuary

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

All elements of recent services may be heard on our website; transcripts, videos, and audio podcasts can also be found: PeweeValleyPresbyterian.org
Get instant alerts by following us on Facebook and Twitter