



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PEWEE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 18, 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* 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, meditate on how you may more faithfully engage the world in your Easter life.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

CONSIDERING LENT: 2018

Unlike the Christmas season, 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?

Winding Down, Ann Weems
(from Kneeling in Jerusalem)

We run around the world and church like wound-up toys, looking for a way to get to Easter without reading the instructions.

When we wind down, we lie on the floor on our faces, unable to move.

Perhaps, in the still and the silence, God will give us the courage to see our souls and give us a chance once more to choose Life: Faith rather than frenzy.

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. Beneath the ice of frozen creek beds, waters run, steady and silent. Above the blanket of clouds, light pours forth. But we remain frozen and our eyes see only what is right in front of us.

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

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

The prelude is an organ transcription of Ola Gjeilo's chorale, "Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est," which means, "Where charity and love are, God is there."

This hymn is a reflection on Galatians 5:25 and was written by an Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the poorer London churches.

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."

PRELUDE "Ubi Caritas"

OLA GJEILO

CALL TO WORSHIP

Shawn Harmon

Leader: Sometimes we are a people without hope.
People: **But not this morning. God has called us to this place.**
Leader: Sometimes we are cut off from one another.
People: **But not this morning. God has called us to this place to be together.**
ALL: **LET US WORSHIP GOD AND REVEAL GOD'S WONDROUS WORKS OF LOVE!**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 326

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

MORECAMBE

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...**

Eternal and Almighty God, you have long sought us and we have fled. You have offered us an easy yoke, and we have tied ourselves down with cares and burdens. You have forgiven us, and we have complained against our sisters and brothers. Give us a conversion that turns us around to face the light; teach us a repentance that lives in works of love; lead us into the narrow path; guide us through the valley of the shadow of death. Call us to follow Jesus and his way, to live and suffer, die and rise again. 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

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.

The text of the anthem comes from Psalms 51:10-12. Each verse illustrates parallels often found in Hebrew poetry: positive actions, avoidance of negative actions, and providing an improved spiritual condition.

The text of this hymn places stewardship in the context of faithful witness.

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

Ashia Stoess

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Chancel Choir

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

C.F. MUELLER

SCRIPTURE LESSON Amos 5:21-24

(Page 854, OT, Pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON ALL HANDS ON DECK

Reverend Joel Weible

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*PROCLAMATION HYMN NO. 434

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

KINGSFOLD

*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.

The offertory is a tune that acknowledges that though Christ paid the price, we are still sinners in need of cleansing each and every day, waiting for the day when we will be washed clean forever.

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."

This hymn references Proverbs 19:17: "Whoever has pity on the poor lends to the Lord". It's a hymn about bringing our gifts to be used for the church's ministry of word and deed to needy people – in other words, our ministry for Christ.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "There is a Fountain"

HAROLD DECOU

*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.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 428

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

SCHUMANN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Reverend Joel Weible

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE "O Lord, We Praise You"

B. CULLI

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

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