



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PEWEE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – March 3, 2024

10:30 A.M.

**Bold text is read or sung by the congregation.**

**\*Please rise in body or spirit.**

PVPC welcomes children and encourages them to participate in our entire worship service. There is a special place for them and their parents in the front of the sanctuary, please join us.

This Lent, we welcome you to the journey. As we enter our sanctuary for the worship services of Lent – from Ash Wednesday through six Sundays and Maundy Thursday – we will be stepping into the **Wilderness** to be led by the Spirit of God, gentle and restless. Through liturgy, prayers, sermon, scripture, and song we will find ourselves shaped and formed for Easter morning and all that lies beyond.

Use this time before the Ringing of the Bell to read the Poem. How is Lent a “disruption in your life? If it’s not ... why isn’t it?!

The origin of bells in Christian worship can be traced to the ram’s horns and silver trumpets used in the Old Testament. .

After James Manley completed his first draft, he felt the “prodding and pushing” of the Holy Spirit as both a “comforter and challenger.” We use this refrain to begin our worship this year. How, and where, is the Spirit “prodding and pushing” you?

## GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

### The Wilderness is a Place of Disruption

A Poetry Prayer by Sarah Are

My grandfather was a good man, but he believed that wilderness emotions were not to be seen. “Cry with the door closed. Don’t dwell on the negative. Chin up, Kid, we’ve been here before.”

My grandfather was a good man, but I’d like to say – “The wilderness is here to interrupt your previously scheduled programming.”

Like water in the desert and setting the slaves free, the wilderness might be the very thing we need, the very thing we dream, the very thing we plead for.

I guess what I’m trying to say is, it never seems appealing to let a bird in the house, but if you do, then you might as well open every window and door. And if you do, then you just might find yourself basking in the light, dancing in the breeze, overwhelmed with the beauty that an open door brings.

So I’m opening my door and inviting in the wind, to rustle up my heart and start over again. For sweeping the truth under the rug has never gotten us far. So may the wilderness be like a bird in the house. Throw open the doors. The truth must come out.

## THE RINGING OF THE BELL and A TIME OF SILENCE

### A LENTEN INVITATION

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (refrain only)

Refrain

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the  
wil - der - ness, call - ing and free. Spir - it,  
spir - it of rest - less - ness, stir me from plac - id - ness,  
wind, wind on the sea. Fine

*This morning's prelude is an arrangement of THAXTED, Hymn #341, from English composer Gustav Holst and the words are from Psalm 67: "O God, show mercy to us and bless us with your grace."*

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

The opening line of this hymn quotes Psalm 87:3 "Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God" (ESV). The theme of these stanzas is the universal church, and its story. We are reminded through this of the long history God has with His people, and of the wonderful future awaiting those who are, through grace, members of God's family.

*In the presence of the 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.*

*We sing of the mysterious Grace of God, 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."*

*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.*

*PVPC proudly introduces our **Pray-ground** in the front of the Sanctuary: a flexible seating space geared toward families with children that offers us the opportunity to teach children how to worship in age-appropriate ways as they grow in their discipleship. All who desire are invited to "come forward!"*

# PREPARING OUR HEARTS

## PRELUDE "O God, Show Mercy to Us"

G. HOLST

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Connie Vice

Leader: Jesus met the blind man at the city gate.  
People: Jesus met the crowds at the edge of the sea.  
Leader: Jesus met the leper in his pain.  
People: And Jesus met the Samaritan woman in her isolation.  
Leader: So with confidence we declare—  
People: Jesus meets us here.  
Leader: For we too are the blind and the broken, the hurting and the bleeding.  
People: Jesus meets our scars, our fears, our prayers, and our dreams.  
ALL: ALL ARE WELCOME HERE. LET US WORSHIP HOLY GOD.

## \*OPENING HYMN NO. 81

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

AUSTRIAN HYMN

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: As we confess before God and one another, we pray ...

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, when it comes to our faith, we know we could learn from the Samaritan woman who ran through the streets singing your name. So forgive us for the times when we remain silent about what our faith means to us. Forgive us for the times when we choose comfort over bravery. And forgive us for the times we shut people out, missing opportunities to run into you. Teach us to be brave like the Samaritan woman and saturate our thirst for that which leaves us thirsty. With hope and gratitude, we confess. With hope and gratitude, we pray together. Hear now our silent prayers of return ... (a time of silence for personal confession)

## SUNG RESPONSE, Hymn No. 215 (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!

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our hearts are washed anew in the healing waters of God's love.  
For the steadfast love of God endures forever ...  
Through the Holy Spirit, God nourishes us into life.  
For the steadfast love of God endures forever ...  
WHAT A WONDROUS LOVE THIS IS, INDEED.

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

SACRED SPACE: A Time for Our Younger Disciples

In the Presbyterian Church, a sermon based on the Scripture(s) read in worship, proclaims the good news of the risen Lord, equips us to follow him more faithfully, and inspires us to proclaim the gospel to others through our own words and deeds.

*Clara Scott was the first woman to publish a collection of her own hymns. This hymn was created as a "sung prayer for illumination."*

#### THE IONA COMMUNITY

*The Iona Community is an ecumenical Christian community that is committed to seeking new ways of living the Gospel in today's world. It was 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.*

*Do you remember the first time you heard the Lord's Prayer? Most of us can't only not remember when we first heard this prayer, we can't remember when we memorized it, because memorizing wasn't a conscious effort. Lent is an appropriate time to consider the prayer Jesus taught us to pray in a careful way. As you pray this season, try "embodying" the prayer by following the liturgist in the front of the sanctuary. In any case, don't just "recite" the prayer this Lent, **think** about the words so you may experience it anew.*

*The offertory is a setting from Hymn #216 and describes the cross as a place of refuge and mercy, and ultimately, how little we are worth in comparison to Jesus' suffering and death.*

## MUSICAL OFFERING

"The Lord Will Be My Shepherd"

The Chancel Choir

DON BESIG

## SCRIPTURE LESSON John 4:5-42

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON INTO THE WILDERNESS: Making Connections Rev. Joel Weible

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### \*PROCLAMATION HYMN NO. 451

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

OPEN MY EYES

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

from THE IONA COMMUNITY

We believe that God hopes and works for a world where all shall be included in the feast of life and that in Christ we see how costly it is to bring that world about.

We believe that God of all the earth is at work beyond the churches as well as within them, working for justice, so that all may have a say in what happens to them.

We long for the time when all who hunger and thirst for justice shall be satisfied and we believe that despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done and we *can* make a difference. Amen.

## TIME OF GIVING THANKS

CELEBRATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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.

## PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

arr. D. WOOD

*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."*

## \*DOXOLOGY



*The first two stanzas of this hymn deal with events of the past – "were broken." The final two events speak of the present. The refrain, sung after each stanza, serve as an affirmation of Christ's presence at all times.*

## \*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.

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *(by Intinction)* SEE INSERT

Communion Servers: Connie Vice, James Bates, Margaret Hill, Larry Vice

## \*CLOSING HYMN NO. 498

"Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken" BEACH SPRING

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Reverend Joel Weible

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

## THE RINGING OF THE BELL

## POSTLUDE "God, You Rule with Royal Bearing"

arr. P. MANZ

*The postlude is a version of hymn tune BRYN CALFARIA, Hymn #272, and the text alludes to Psalm 93: "God you rule with royal bearing, clothed in glory, love, and light."*

**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**