



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PEWEE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – March 10, 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.

Robert William Service lived from 1874-1958. In his lifetime, he was a poet, writer, and adventurer. Service penned *The Call of the Wild* from the great frontier of the Yukon during his time of exploration in Canada. This poem invites its readers to self discovery in the vast unknowns and beauty of the natural world.

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 Call of the Wild

An excerpt from a Poem by Robert William Service

Have you suffered, starved and triumphed, groveled down, yet grasped at glory,
Grown bigger in the bigness of the whole?
"Done things" just for the doing, letting babblers tell the story,
Seeing through the nice veneer the naked soul?
Have you seen God in [God's] splendors, heard the text that nature renders?
(You'll never hear it in the family pew.)
The simple things, the true things, the silent [ones] who do things ~
Then listen to the Wild ~ it's calling you.

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.

Today's prelude is from "The Kentucky Harmony," one of the most influential early American hymnody songbooks. The lyrics can be found at Hymn #415.

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.

Our opening hymn was penned by Horatius Bonar, a Scottish clergyman and poet, in 1846. When you sing this hymn, let its words remind you of the rest, living water, and light found in Jesus.

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 "Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

arr. M. THOMPSON

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joel Weible

Leader:: God is in the water that restores our soul.

People: And God is in the night when we lose our way.

Leader: And God is in the wilderness with us—every step of the way.

People: So, If God is in those spaces, then God is surely here.

ALL: LET US WORSHIP THE GOD OF WILDERNESS SPACES.

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*OPENING HYMN NO. 182

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

KINGSFOLD

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

There are stories of Jesus healing the blind all over scripture. He was constantly opening people's eyes. So today, O God, we confess that we often choose to keep our eyes closed. We turn away from injustice in our world, worried you might ask us to work for change. We close our eyes to our privilege, because the truth is uncomfortable. We avoid eye contact with those who are suffering to avoid identifying with their pain. Forgive us for failing to be your Church in the world. Guide us from the depths of our wilderness into your light. 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

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Cross of Sorrow"

The Chancel Choir

TOM FETTKE

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.

This hymn calls each of us to serve those in need. Despite living in a world of pain and suffering, we have the power to enact change with Christ as our guide.

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. Learning 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 Lacrimosa, meaning tearful or full of sorrow, is part of a mass often used at funerals. Mozart, on his deathbed, composed only PART of this piece before his passing. It was completed a year after his death by Franz Xaver Süssmayr.

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 9:1-41

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

SERMON INTO THE WILDERNESS: A Place of Disruption Ashia Stoess

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*PROCLAMATION HYMN NO. 314

"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

*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 "Lacrimosa"

W.A. MOZART

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



*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. 649

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

AMAZING GRACE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Reverend Joel Weible

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE “The St. Anne Fugue” (BWV 552)

J.S. BACH

Written by English Anglican clergyman and poet John Newton in 1772, our closing hymn carries a powerful message of hope and redemption. Remember, grace is a gift that reaches beyond our shortcomings, offering hope and renewal.

This fugue demonstrates Bach’s mastery of counterpoint using five different melody lines. Its subject, resembling the English tune “St. Anne,” Hymn #687, contributes to its nickname.

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