March 26th, 2023 Fífth Sunday in Lent

Our PCAS Vision: "To be a Light by Living, Loving, Learning, and Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

> Order of Worship (*Please rise in body and/or spirit)

Welcome and Announcements

Minute fo	or Mission	One Great Hour of Sharing	Kirsten Schanck
Prelude	Savior, Like	a Shepherd Lead Us	William B. Bradbury

Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Call to Worship

1

Leader: O God, in creation you fashion us in your image.

People: Come unto us at this time and in this place, O Lord, that your image in us might be revealed.

Leader: In Christ you reveal to us your love.

People: Come unto us at this time and in this place, O Lord, that your love for us might be returned.

Leader: Through the Holy Spirit you welcome us into the fellowship of believers.

People: Come unto us at this time and in this place, O Lord, that our fellowship in Christ be renewed.

*Hymn #716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Music and lyrics page 4

Call to Confession (based on Isaiah 55:6-7)

Leader: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Trusting ourselves to the grace of God, let us confess our sins before God and one another:

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of justice and love,

We confess that we desire to receive forgiveness more than we desire to forgive. We pray "forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors" sincerely meaning the first part, but not always the second. As you have mercy upon us, may we learn how powerful a force mercy is for healing the rifts between us. May your example show us the way. Amen.

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. In Christ we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Romans 6 :1-11

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks Be to God!

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

*Passing of the Peace

***Hymn** #726 Will You Come and Follow Me

Music and lyrics page 5

Second Scripture Lesson John 8:2-11

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks Be to God

Sermon "The Problem with Forgiveness"

Offering					
Offertory	Here I am Lord	Setting by Lloyd Larson			
Doxology					
*Prayer of Dedication					
* Hymn #43	Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me	Music and lyrics page 6			
*Benediction					
Postlude Beneath the Cross of Jesus		Setting by Dale Wood			

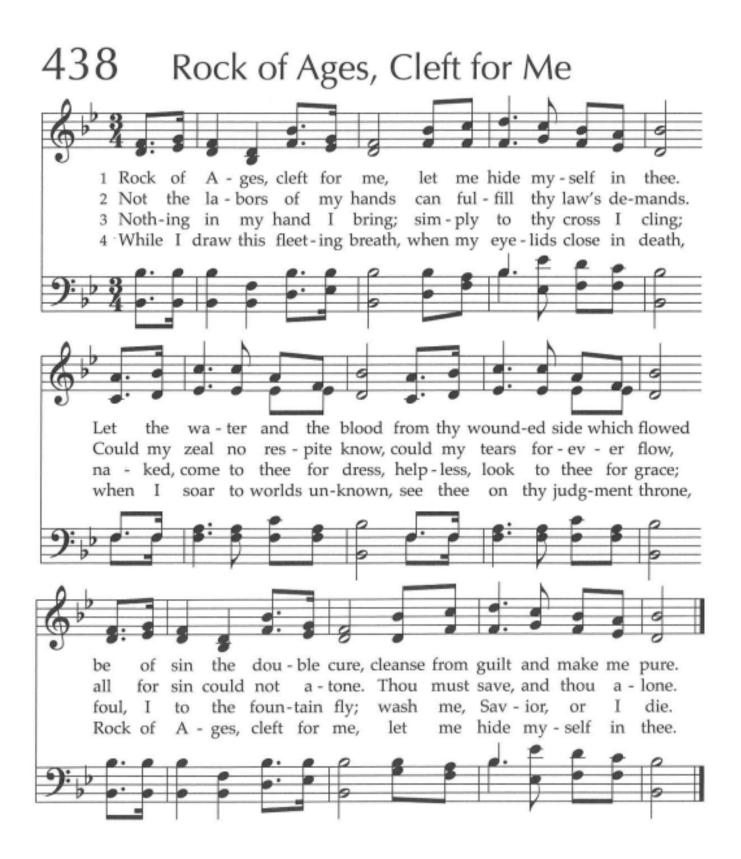
Flowers today are given in memory of Doris & Ed Coccaro and Jean & Edward Carter by Mike & Debi Coccaro

Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening
Liturgist:	Mike Coccaro
Organ and Piano:	Kathleen Healy–Wedsworth
	Marcello Velame
Duet:	Sean Starke
	Jeni Weber
Ushers:	Sue Starke
	Cari Suarez
	Diane Suarez
Zoom Hosts:	John Palframan
	Jim Wright
Coffee Hour:	Mission Belles







Holy Week Services

The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury



Palm Sunday 4/2/23, 10am, Sanctuary

Gather at the church house at 9:45am to join in our procession with palms, singing, and handbells, or meet us in the sanctuary or on Zoom.

Maundy Thursday Prayer Service & Vigil 4/6/23, 7pm, Sanctuary

Join us for contemplative prayer at 7pm Sign up to keep vigil for one hour between 8pm and 9am in the sanctuary, or on Zoom Signup sheet in church house foyer, or via Sign-up Genius link on website.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service 4/7/23, 7:30pm, Fellowship Hall

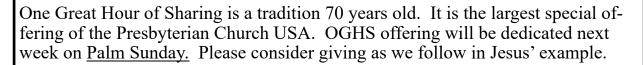
A service of lengthening shadows as the story of Jesus's last days and crucifixion are dramatically told, including holy communion.

Easter Celebration of the Resurrection 4/9/23, 10am, Sanctuary

On the most holy day of the year, join us in great celebration of the resurrection of the Lord! Joyous music from our choir, handbell choir, and trumpet.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING Special Offerings Hunger - Disaster - Development

Every time we set a table where all hungry hearts can eat; every time we welcome neighbors and we add an extra seat; and every time we live as servants, free to wash each other's feet, IN OUR LIVING, IN OUR GIVING, WE ARE THERE



Blue OGHS envelopes are in the pews, or use your own envelope from home. Please make out the checks to PCAS with OGHS on the memo line.

The Healing Tree

There in God's garden stands the tree of Wisdom, whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations: tree of all knowledge, tree of all compassion, tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says "Our Savior!" There on its branches see the scars of suffering; see, there the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome; hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary! Give me your sickness; give me all your sorrow; I will give blessing."

Text from a 17th century hymn written by Hungarian pastor Pecselyi Kiraly Imre

Throughout the Lenten season, you are invited to use the green leaves in the pew racks to "grow" the tree - to name lives and places in your life or in the world where you see Christ's work of reconciliation and healing happening - even if only in tiny ways! It all counts! You may add leaves to Christ's tree before or after the service, or during the passing of the peace, or you may place them in the offering plates for the worship committee to add. As the tree "grows", we will have a visible sign of Christ's vital work among us.



Schedule Week of March 27th

27	MAR, MON	4:30 – 5:30pm 7 – 9pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga - Gentle Floor Yoga(studio) Boy Scouts (FH)
28	MAR, TUE	9 – 10:30am 9:30 – 10:30am 11am – 12pm 12 – 2pm	Zoom Bible Study Wisdom Tree Yoga - Chair Yoga Fitness(studio) Overeaters Anonymous (TR) Church & Society (O)
30	MAR, THU	9:30 – 10:30am 4:45 – 5:45pm 6 – 7pm 7:15 – 8:15pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga - Yoga for Bone Health (studio) Yoga Small Group - (FH) Bells (Social Room) GF Service Rehearsal (FH)
1	APR, SAT	8 – 9:30am 7:30 – 9pm	Men's Group (offsite) AA (TR and FH)
2	APR, SUN	8:30 - 9:30am 10 - 11am 10:15 - 11am 11am - 12pm 3:30 - 4:30pm 5 - 6pm	Choir Practice (Sanctuary) Sunday Worship (Sanctuary) Sunday School Coffee Hour (FH) AA (TR) AA (TR)