

March 3rd, 2024

Third Sunday of 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

Prelude Beneath the Cross of Jesus Setting by Linda R. Lamb

Lighting of the Candle

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, children of God, and be welcomed here as you are.

People: We gather in this place to worship God and God alone.

Leader: Come, children of God, and be fed at the Lord's Table.

People: We come to receive what we need for the journey ahead.

Leader: Come, children of God, and let us find the fuel for our faith.

People: We come to the Table to receive God's blessing and share it with others.

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

***Hymn #279** Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

Call to Confession

Leader: The farther into Lent we journey, the more self-reflection we have had time to do. As a result, our confession grows more pointed. We pray difficult truths in order for God's grace of forgiveness and renewal to seed itself in our lives.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, we like to claim that your way is mysterious, but we confess that we don't want to understand the fact that you choose. You call us to loose the bonds of injustice, to let prisoners free, to break every yoke, to bring the homeless into our house, to feed our neighbors and pray for our enemies. We make it sound like a difficult metaphor so we don't have to act on your word, because we don't like to be uncomfortable. Forgive our apathy, our willful ignorance, our false modesty, and our unexamined

privilege. Create in us a clean heart, and lead us into a Holy Lent...and beyond, to abundant life for all your creation. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! God does not struggle with acts of mercy and the work of reconciliation. When we hit our limits, we fall into sin, but God's determination to uphold all of us in love has no limit! Committing ourselves to the way of Christ, let us rise in faith to the life of love and mercy. That is God's plan for us.

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson: John 14:15-23
This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Message

Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the Church
Passing the Peace

***Hymn #366** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Second Scripture Lesson Mark 15:33-41
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

Sermon "Abandonment and Advocacy"

Offering
Offertory Meditation Tim Smith
***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.

*Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer continues...

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

(A) (D/F#) (F#m) (G) (A) (Bm)
C F/A Am Bb C Dm
(G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
Bb F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

Prayer continues...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(G) (A) (Bm) (G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
Bb C Dm Bb F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

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.

Words of Institution and Sharing of the Elements

You are invited to eat the bread as it is served; Please hold the cup until all have been served; We will drink together. Please let the servers know if you need gluten free bread.

Prayer after Communion (unison)

God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; make our mouths speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us. In his holy name we pray, Amen.

***Hymn #727 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant** (verses 1-5)

Benediction

Postlude There Is a Fountain Setting by Dan R. Edwards

Today's flowers are dedicated in loving memory of our parents, Richard and Gladys Pearson, and Steve and Barbara Vodhanel, and to Rich's brother, Steve Vodhanel Jr..

Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening
Director of Music Ministries:	Marcello Velame
Liturgist:	Kim Davies
Music Ministry:	Jubilee Bells
Ushers:	Brian Sergeant
	John Tortora
Zoom Hosts:	John Palframan
	Diane Suarez
Social Hour:	Facilities Management

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove 279

1 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven - ly Dove,
 2 In vain we tune our for - mal songs;
 3 Dear Lord, and shall we ev - er live
 4 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven - ly Dove,

with all thy quick - ening powers; kin - dle a flame of
 in vain we strive to rise; ho - san - nas lan - guish
 at this poor dy - ing rate? Our love so faint, so
 with all thy quick - ening powers; come, shed a - broad a

sa - cred love in these cold hearts of ours.
 on our tongues, and our de - vo - tion dies.
 cold to thee, and thine to us so great!
 Sav - ior's love, and that shall kin - dle ours.

In contrast with many hymns to the Holy Spirit, this one is notable for being in the plural, a valuable reminder that the Holy Spirit has been bestowed on the whole Church, not just on a few individuals. The tune was composed for "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" (no. 629).

366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song

1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall

be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
 geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
 night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
 laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
 find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -

grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
 to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
 (repeat stanza 1)

The opening and closing stanza expresses the essence of this folk-style song about the mutuality of servant ministry: those who serve must also be willing to be served. This is what Christ intended when he commanded the disciples to "wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).

Schedule Week of March 4th

4	MAR, MON	● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga (FH)
		● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
5	MAR, TUE	● 9 – 10:30am	Zoom Bible Study
		● 9:30 – 10:30am	Wisdom Tree Yoga (FH)
		● 11am – 12pm	Overeaters Anonymous (TR)
		● 5 – 7pm	Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (FH)
6	MAR, WED	● 7 – 8pm	Lenten Prayer Group (Manse)
		● 8 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Bible Study (TR)
7	MAR, THU	● 9:30 – 10:30am	Wisdom Tree Yoga (FH)
		● 4:45 – 5:45pm	Yoga Small Group - (FH)
		● 6 – 7pm	Bells (SR)
		● 7 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani choir practice (FH)
9	MAR, SAT	● 7:30 – 9pm	AA (TR and FH)
10	MAR, SUN	● 8:45 – 9:30am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (FH)
		● 3:30 – 4:30pm	AA (TR)
		● 5 – 6pm	AA (TR)
		● 6 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Worship (FH)