

We are imperfect believers, passionate about sharing the love of Christ: by Connecting, Growing, and Serving.



A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 2024

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome! If you are visiting, please use the QR code on the visitor card found in the pew rack to share your info online or fill out the back of the card and drop it in the offering plate. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack, and we invite you to list your concerns and place them in the offering plate as well.

*Congregation stands as noted

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (from Psalm 107)

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever. People: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in

from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Leader: Let them thank the Lord for God's steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind. People: Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and tell of the Lord's deeds with songs of joy. All: Let us worship our Lord!

Invocation and Lords' 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.

*Opening Hymn #634

"To God Be the Glory"

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek Reconciliation with God

Preparing Our Hearts for Confession - "Confession" Words/Music by Kenneth Jones (front cover of hymnal)

Lord, I come before you, asking your forgiveness. I am broken, I have faltered. I have turned from you. Create in me a new heart. Fill me with your love. Grant that I receive your grace, I pray. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God, giver of all that is good, we rejoice that you are the source of all that is. The breath of life is a gift from your generous hand. The food we eat is grown in the world you sustain. The community that supports us is called into being by your saving activity. Everything we have is a gift from you. Why, then, do we complain as though the manna, raining down from heaven for us even now, is not enough? Why do we worry that your well of living water will someday run dry? It is surely our sin that causes us to live as though we do not trust your goodness. Forgive us, we pray. Teach us again to put our trust in your promises that never fail. Remind us that we are

always in your loving care. Fill us with grace, so that our lives might show forth the fullness of your love for all people. Amen.

Time of Silent Reflection and Personal Prayer of Confession Leader: And all the people of Christ say, **People: Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon (from Hebrews 10)

Leader: "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: **People: 'I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.'"** Leader: And the Lord adds, "'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.' **People: Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin."** Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! **People: Thanks be to God!**

*Thanks for God's Forgiveness (#647; no repeats)

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give Thanks! Give Thanks!

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: Grace to you, and peace from God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

*Transition Hymn #626

"As the Deer"

We Respond to God's Faithfulness in Our Life

Offering Our Lives to Jesus through Our Time, Gifts, and Resources (see the 'Giving' card in the pew rack for information about options for digital giving)

*Doxology (#606)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Time for Young Disciples

(Children that have not yet finished 1st Grade are dismissed following this time for Children's Church.)

God's Word Is Read and Proclaimed

Special Music

"Our Song Is Love Unknown" arr. Larry Shackley **Chancel Choir**

Psalm 107:1-3; John 3:16-17

Scripture Reading

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Proclamation of God's Word

"What's Our Role?"

Rev. Preston Shealy

Responding to God's Word

*Affirmation of Our Faith (from The Confession of 1967)

Having sung God's praise, having confessed our sin and been assured of God's pardon, having heard God's word, let us respond by affirming the faith of the church. What do you believe?

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

*Responsive Hymn #215

Preparing Our Hearts for Prayer (#471)

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer" O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Prayers for the People

Sending Out Into the World

*Sending Hymn #643

*Charge and Blessing

"Love Will Be Our Lenten Calling" *Congregational Benediction sung to the PICARDY tune ("Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"), words by Elizabeth Smith

> Peace will be our Lenten living as we turn for home again, longing for the words of pardon, stripping off old grief and pain, till we stand, restored and joyful, with the Church on Easter day.

*Postlude

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We hope you were blessed so you can go and be a witness to Christ's love in the world. May your spirits be renewed for the days ahead.







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Preston Shealy, Interim Pastor Kenneth Jones, Director of Music Millie Shiflett, Accompanist Karlee Tate, Director of Communications

Joyce Johnson, CDC Director **Richard Balentine, Elder of Administration** Dana Tate. Elder of Christian Formation **Russell Truluck, Elder of Facilities Management**

Rita Batman, Lay Leader

Kenneth Jones

"Now Thank We All Our God"

"What Wondrous Love Is This"