

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023

10:30 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

"The Old Rugged Cross"

arr. RANEY

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross)
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true
It's shame and reproach gladly bear
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away
Where his glory forever I'll share

And I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross)
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

"Be still and know that I am God."

Psalm 46:10

(Please see the insert for words to meditate on before worship)

WORDS OF WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

PASSING THE PEACE

"...I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Matthew 25:35b

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

(The people may greet each other in the spirit of Christ.)

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Liturgist

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

God does not see as mortals see.

We look on the outward appearance.

God looks on the heart.

Let us worship God.

THE LENTEN WREATH - LETTING GO OF SIN (Responsive)

Gretchen and Al Amstutz

We have been born into a world of sin. We hurt our neighbors, intentionally and unintentionally. We turn away from God. Sin is inescapable. But so is grace. God calls us to repent and Jesus speaks to us, "Your sins are forgiven." We can let go of our sins and turn back to God, trusting in God's mercy and forgiveness. (*Silence*)

As we extinguish this candle, we let go of our sins. We repent for all that we have done and left undone. We allow ourselves to be forgiven, so that we might respond by offering forgiveness to others and gratitude to God. (*A candle is extinguished.*)

Faithful God, forgive us for turning away from you and others. As we journey toward the cross, help us to repent of our sin and to forgive others in the same way you have forgiven us. Amen.

*HYMN 649

"Amazing Grace"

AMAZING GRACE

*LITANY FOR LENT (Responsive)

Liturgist

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace. You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy; you are generous to all who call upon you.

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sins. On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions and were bruised for our iniquities.

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort, our life and our resurrection, our peace and reconciliation:

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, hope of all who die for you, and joy of all the saints:

Save us, Lord.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

grant us peace.

Let us pray:

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 light and life that is Christ within us. In his holy name we pray. Amen.

THE WORD

TIME WITH OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional) (Page 35, *Glory to God Hymnal*)

SINGING WITH THE CHILDREN: "Jesus Loves Me" (Hymn 188)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

THE HEBREW TESTAMENT READING: I Samuel 16:1-13

Happy are those who delight in God's word.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

(From the *Common English Bible*)

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, so live your life as children of light. Light produces fruit that consists of every sort of goodness, justice, and truth. Therefore, test everything to see what's pleasing to the Lord, and don't participate in the unfruitful actions of darkness. Instead, you should reveal the truth about them. It's embarrassing to even talk about what certain persons do in secret. But everything exposed to the light is revealed by the light. Everything that is revealed by the light is light. Therefore, it says, "Wake up, sleeper! Get up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

These words are trustworthy and true.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

THE GOSPEL READING: John 9:1-41

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Becoming Light-Bearers for God"

THE RESPONSE

*HYMN 377

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

HOUSTON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(From *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of

God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY "Sure the Presence of the Lord is in this Place"

*DOXOLOGY/Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (Hymn 607)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

THE SENDING

*HYMN 834

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

PRECIOUS LORD

*BENEDICTION (Responsive)

May God, who comes to us in the things of this world,
bless our eyes and be in our seeing.

May Christ, who looks upon you with deepest love,
bless our eyes and widen our gaze.

May the Spirit, who perceives what is and what may yet be,
bless our eyes and sharpen our vision.

May the Sacred Three bless you as you become Light-Bearers for God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"A Gaelic Blessing"

RUTTER

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you

Deep peace of the gentle night to you
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you
Deep peace of Christ to you

*Those who are able, please stand.

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Anne Hébert, Pastor
Elaine Trent, Liturgist
Darby Moreno and Caroline Nielsen, Greeters
Dennis and Sally Keeney, Ushers
Al and Gretchen Amstutz, Lenten Readers
Michael Beery, Choir Director
Tim Quist, Organist

This week at St. Andrews:

<p>Today 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12:30 Coffee Hour 4:00 A.A./Al-Anon Serenity Group</p> <p>Monday, Mar. 20 1:00 Lenten Discussion 2:00 Adult Ed MT Mtg 3:30 BACN Board Mtg</p> <p>Tuesday, Mar. 21 3:00 Disciple Bible Study Class</p>	<p>Wednesday, Mar. 22 10:00 Disciple Bible Study Class– via Zoom 1:00 Centering Prayer Group 2:00 Session 4:30 Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Sunday, Mar. 26 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12:30 Coffee Hour 4:00 A.A./Al-Anon Serenity Group</p>
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