



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
March 27, 2022
The Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC AND REFLECTION

*Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."
– John 18:37*

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

A Lenten Prelude

Callahan
Susan Charlton, flute

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving God of power and justice and peace, in our broken world,
We seek a new way: **Where there is courage to speak truth to power.**
We seek a new way: **Where there is mutual support in church and community.**
We seek a new way: **Where there is abundant time for healing.**
We seek a new way: **Where there is peace and freedom for all.**
We seek a new way of Jesus, our Lord and King.

*HYMN No. 93, V.1-4

Ah, Holy Jesus

Ah, holy Jesus, how have You offended,
That mortal judgment has on You descended?
By foes derided, by Your own rejected,
O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon You?
It is my treason, Lord, that has undone You.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied You;
I crucified You.

For me, dear Jesus, was Your incarnation,
Your mortal sorrow, and Your life's oblation,
Your death of anguish and Your bitter passion,
For my salvation.

Therefore, dear Jesus, since I cannot pay You,
I do adore You, and will ever praise You,
Think on Your pity and Your love unswerving,
Not my deserving.

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

All are invited to open their hands as we pray.

When God made humankind, God gave us hands.

God gave us hands to build, **but we learned how to damage.**

God gave us hands to help, **but we learned how to wound.**

God gave us hands to give, **but we learned how to steal.**

God gave us hands to invite, **but we learned how to reject.**

God gave us hands to protect, **but we learned to kill.**

God gave us hands to pray, **but we learned to curse.**

For this, God sent someone whose hands build, help, give, invite, care, protect, and bless.

But the human hands nailed him to the cross –

Pilate's hands, powerful hands, religious hands, betrayer's hands, our hands, my hands.

Merciful God, we come before you with open hands, dirty hands. For the times we have caused hurt, for the times we have rejected others, for the times we have cursed in our hearts, for the times we have condemned others, forgive us we pray. Wash us clean, so that we may learn to be your loving people. Thank you for holding us and the whole world in your hands. We pray in the name of Jesus.

Silent Prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear this good news: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. *By his hands we are lifted up. Thanks be to God!*

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

John 18:28-40

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

*HYMN 92, V.1-2

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me:
And from my stricken heart with tears
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love
And my unworthiness.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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.

DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

Let us give thanks to God at all times, for everything God has provided and in gratitude, offer to God a portion of what God has given to us. Please make your gifts in the box at the front of the sanctuary, online or via mail.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Walther

*The flowers on the communion table are given by Ruthann Arras
in honor of Naomi Smith.*

~*~*~

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Luke McGloughlin, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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The Call to Worship is from the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website:

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/Confession>, Closing service of the 2011 Calvin Symposium on Worship online
at <http://vimeo.com/19672086> (beginning at 24:11)

John 18:28-40

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews? They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.