

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 19, 2023

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Prelude - Song of Peace - Arnold Sherron

Call to Worship

With all our heart, we take refuge in God most high, who created all things,
the merciful Father, Source of all goodness.

With all our heart, we take refuge in Christ, the Redeemer from sin,
who restores our true nature, the perfect and mysterious Word.

With all our heart, we take refuge in the One who embraces the universe, who at all times and
in all places responds to our needs,
the pure and tranquil Holy Spirit.

Opening Hymn No. 159** - Lift High the Cross

Come Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The hosts of God in unity combine.

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou has promised, draw the world to thee.

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory!

(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Invocation

Our heavenly Father, we your humble children invoke your blessing on us. We adore you, whose name is love, whose nature is compassion, whose presence is joy, whose Word is truth, whose Spirit is goodness, whose holiness is beauty, whose will is peace, whose service is perfect freedom, and in knowledge of whom stands our eternal life. Unto you be all honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages

Scripture Reading

Psalm 31:9-16 (Old Testament p. 506/479)

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief,

my soul and body also.
For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror to my neighbours,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.
I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.
For I hear the whispering of many—
terror all around!—
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, 'You are my God.'
My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

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.

Anthem

8:30 - *Silent Betrayal* - H. Dean Wagner

If only I'd been there that day, things would have been different. I wouldn't have fled like Peter; I wouldn't have betrayed like Judas; I wouldn't have mocked like the soldiers. Yet today I stood in a crowd, ashamed of him, denying him, betraying him. Afraid of people's scorn I failed to confess I knew him. Without running, I ran; without deceiving, I deceived; without speaking, I mocked.

11:00 - *My Wordless Prayer* - Craig Courtney

My words lie still and lifeless as dust upon the sand, I can no longer voice one request or one demand, My cup of tears is empty, I can no longer cry, My lips have fallen silent, my prayer is but a sigh. Spirit come and rest Your ear upon my heart, O come and hear my wordless prayer, my silent plea and take them far away from me. Take them from this heart of mine to the Father's heart divine, Speak in tones unknown to man that God may hear and understand. My voice is weak from calling to You both night and day. How long will You be silent? Why do You turn away? Spirit, come and rest Your ear upon my heart; Come and hear my wordless prayer, my silent plea and take them far away from me. Take them from this heart of mine to the Father's heart divine. Speak in tones unknown to man that God may hear and understand.

Children's Anthem (11:00) - A Lenten Love Song - Helen Kemp

Now Jesus went into the garden, the garden of Gethsemane. He went there sad and very weary to be alone to pray. "Dear God, I am so sorrowful, is there no other way?

Dear God, if it is possible, let this cup pass away." Now Jesus went into the garden, the garden of Gethsemane. The olive tree bent over him and heard him sadly pray: "Dear God, your Son is so sorrowful, but knows your way is best. Let love take hold of me! Help me to be bold and free to do your will, To do your will and rest.

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est. (Where charity and love are found, God is there)

God's Word for Young Disciples

(Those in grades K-4 may be excused for Children's worship during the 11:00 service. They may be picked up in Asbury Hall.)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26:14-36 (New Testament p. 29/28)

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What will you give me if I betray him to you?' They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' He said, 'Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples." ' So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd,

and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.”
But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.’ Peter said to him, ‘Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.’ Peter said to him, ‘Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.’ And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon - *He Gets Us: Betrayed and Backstabbed*

Pastor Mike Ward

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response No. 289** - *Ah, Holy Jesus*

*Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted!*

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee!
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.*

*Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered.
For our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.*

*For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.*

*Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - *Were You There?* - John Innes

(Please fill out the attendance sheet found in the pew pads.)

Doxology**

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.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith

Closing Hymn No. 297** - 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 that 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.*

*I take, O cross, thy shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.*

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn No. 292)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

Postlude - *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* - Johannes Brahms



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in memory of DeWitt Asher by Shirley Asher and family

Service Music: 8:30 Epworth Choir and Morgan Meyers – Soloist 11:00 Chancel Choir and Wesley Choir
Music: One License A-731491

CHURCH NOTES

Thursday Organ Concerts: Be sure to join us every Thursday at noon for a short organ concert by Dean Wagner.

Easter Egg Hunt: Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 1, at 11 a.m. No fooling! We are in need of candy to fill the eggs. No candy with nuts, please. Small trinkets are also welcome, if you are interested in helping please contact Pastor Karol. A simple lunch will follow, so if feeding folks is your passion, let us know that as well!

Children's Ministries: ROCK will have one more session – **TODAY** March 19.

Our annual Rice Packing event is scheduled for May 7.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of June 19 – 23. We still need both adult and youth volunteers, so please let me know if you are willing and available to help.

Thank you to all who have already committed to being part of the week's activities.

Operation Christmas Child: Acts of Grace Circle, in conjunction with the First Church Youth Group, are starting a 9 month campaign to collect items for shoeboxes. Our goal is to pack 100 shoeboxes in November. How can you help? We will post information about items to be collected each month. Items for March are: toothbrushes, yo-yos, and hair accessories for girls. Look for our display on Sundays. Contact Linda Demeter at 740-334-9290 with questions.

Good Neighbors: Good Neighbors has supplied us with a list of items that they need in March. If you would like to contribute some of these, you may leave them in the bin outside the church library. The items are: peanut butter, ramen noodles, jelly (in plastic containers), canned fruit, laundry detergent, paper towels, bathroom tissue, Kleenex, and canned cat food.

East Ohio Conference Summer Camp: Registration is now open for the conference's summer camp. Early Bird Registration gives you a \$20 discount and is due by March 15. Brochures with complete details are available at the Welcome Center. There is a \$100 scholarship from First Church per child and an additional one from the District. Please turn your registration in to the church office to request those. Contact Donna Curfman if you have additional questions.

Heart4theCity: Heart4theCity is a mission church of the East Ohio Conference located in the Goodyear Heights neighborhood. They are currently asking for small electric kitchen appliances, bedding, and gloves (work style NOT cotton as they have enough of these currently) to be sold in the store they operate. Donations may be placed in the bin located outside the church library.

Weekday Christian Preschool: Registration has begun for the 2023-2024 school year. We offer a Christian preschool program for children who will be 3, 4, or 5 years old by September 30, 2023. The program is state licensed and staffed with degreed lead teachers and trained teachers' assistants. We believe that learning takes place through discovery and play. Each classroom environment is child led and teacher facilitated. Our main objective is to foster a positive self-image in each child while nourishing their social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth.

Next Steps

Next Steps

This weeks next steps:

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?”

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “You have said so.”

²⁸ This is my blood of the^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

Questions for Reflection:

Why do you think Judas would have betrayed Jesus?

When the disciples asked Jesus where they should make preparations to eat the Passover meal, what answer did He give them?

Did Jesus’ having his feet bathed in oil start the whole process of betrayal? If that is true, did God create Judas just to condemn him?

What kind of chance do I have of being a good Christian if the disciples could mess things up like they did?

Questions for Discussion:

What unexpected announcement did Jesus make when he was reclining at the table eating the Passover with the disciples? How did the disciples respond to this announcement?

How did Jesus let them know who the betrayer was? What did he say about that man?

Why did the disciples all think it was each of them that betrayed Jesus even if they didn’t say it aloud?

Memory Verse:

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?”

Jesus answered, “You have said so.”

Readings for Next Week:

Psalm 116: 12-19

Matthew 26: 30-46

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Romans 8: 6-11

John 11: 1-45

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
MARCH 19, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Jim Bailey Behrman family Mark & Cindy Blaser Robert Boyd	Larry Brimlow Don Corbett Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost Jim Henes Phil Hennen	Gerald Lewis Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Cynthia Schrier Christina Shaw David Townsend Ken Tunstall
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DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

FORREST WALLER AND FAMILY ON THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE, MEMBER MARILYN ON 3/8.

KENNY TUNSTALL AND FAMILY ON THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE, MEMBER MARY ON 2/26.