

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla  
Worship Service for the Fourth Sunday in Lent**

*March 10, 2024*

**Pre-Service Music:** *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* - Anna Laura Page

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *Looking Toward Jerusalem* - Gerald Peterson

**Introit#89:** *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* v. 4 *Psalm 25*

**Call to Worship:**

We enter into worship together, reflections of God's glory.

**Inspired by God's presence, we gather to join in praise.**

In joy, we lift our voices.

**With adoration, we express our gratitude.**

**Prayer of the Day:**

**Guided by your revelation, we are compelled to seek your wisdom as we continue the Lenten journey. We are filled with awesome wonder that you would love us so, trust us so, and move within us. Now fill our spirits with hope, humility, and resolve, that we might be your will in the world. Open our hearts to accept this call upon our lives. May our sacred service be pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

**Hymn #366:** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (please stand)

**Call to Confession**

How do we know when our actions are right?

**When the fruits of our labors are good and true.**

Christ is the light that exposes all we keep hidden,

**but offers us healing and renewal instead of judgment.**

Therefore, let us hold up our sins to Christ's gaze.

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we predict, but we forget: you do what is good, not what is expected. Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles. Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions. Most of all, forgive us when we do not respond to your call, ignoring what we need to do to show the world your love and grace.**

## Declaration of Pardon

Jesus restores our souls and leads us in right paths for his name's sake.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,  
and we will dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives long.**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## Passing the Peace of Christ

**Kyrie Eleison/Lord, Have Mercy #579:** *(please stand)*

**Anthem:** *In All Our Grief and Fear We Turn To You* Thomas Keesecker

## Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the world, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *(brief silence)*

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialogue. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war in Gaza, Ukraine and other countries experiencing war, turmoil, and strife.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray:

**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**

**Hymn #439:** *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* (seated)

## Prayer for Illumination:

**Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may  
see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace;  
through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

## **Scriptures for the Day**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Numbers 21:4 - 9

**Epistle Lesson:** Ephesians 2:1 - 10

**Gospel Lesson:** John 3:14 – 21

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** “The Light” Susan Murray

**Affirmation of Faith** *Ephesians 3* (please stand)

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings** (please be seated)

**Offertory Hymn #703:** *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me* vs. 1, 2

**Prayer of Dedication:** (Source: *Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona*)

**We long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done, and we can make a difference. May it be so, through the offering of these gifts and the offering of our lives. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #377:** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (stand)

**Benediction:** (remain standing)

Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee, Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** *This Little Light of Mine* - Mark Hayes

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