

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

March 17, 2024

Pre-Service Music: *Grace Greater than Our Sin* - Larry Shackley

Welcome and Announcements

- Maundy Thursday: March 28, 6:30 pm, Chapel
- Easter carry-in brunch (March 31)
- Easter Basket of Hope collection
- One Great Hour of Sharing special offering through Easter

Prelude: *We Are Travelers on a Journey* - Mark Hayes

Introit#89: *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* v. 5 *Psalm 25*

Call to Worship:

Let us join our voices with the saints whose lives inspire.

We are here today, aspiring to claim the life of faith with courage.

We are ready to worship and give thanks for whose we are.

In our worship, we share God's message with the world.

Prayer of the Day:

O Lord, please hear our prayer. As we start the climb down the mountain with Jesus after these forty days and forty nights, we pray that we will be ready for what comes next. As the ministry of Jesus began after a season of prayer, so does ours. We give thanks for the promise that you will be with us as we continue to spread the gospel to the world. May your will be done through us, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Hymn #401: *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)* (please stand)

Call to Confession

Christ is nearer to us than we can imagine.

Jesus' power is not just for a distant past and a far-off future.

Jesus is here for us here and now.

Because there is forgiveness with God, let us call upon the Lord.

Prayer of Confession

God of resurrection, we know the power of death. We have seen its works. We have felt its sting. We have been to the valley of despair, and felt like there was no chance for life. We do not believe in your power to resurrect. We do not believe in your power to redeem our pain, and fashion something beautiful in this world. Forgive us. We cry from the depths— however faint our call may be, we pray you hear our voice.

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 #577: *(please stand)*

Anthem: *God So Loved the World* John Stainer

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)*

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship.

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

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 #833: *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31 - 34

Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 5:5 - 10

Gospel Lesson: John 12:20 - 33

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Written On Our Hearts*

Rev. Dr. Susan Forshey

Affirmation of Faith

(please stand)

Adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia

We believe in God, sovereign in grace and love, maker of all things. We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God, the firstborn of a new creation. We believe in God's eternal Spirit, pledge and foretaste of the future, given that we may not lose the way, who has endowed us with a diversity of gifts.

We are a pilgrim people on the way to the promised goal. On this way, we are called to live and work within the faith and unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. In this unity, we offer our worship, witness and service and receive one another in love and joy.

We are being led to the free obedience of the children of God, and so we look with yearning and hope to the final reconciliation of humanity with God, and the renewal of all creation. Alleluia. Amen.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

(please be seated)

Offertory Hymn #697:

Take My Life

vs. 1, 4

Prayer of Dedication:

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel, through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Sending Hymn #265:

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

(stand)

Benediction:

(remain standing)

God the giver of love, Christ the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

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

Postlude: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* - Barbara Boertje

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