



Community
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Clarendon Hills



“Seventy-seven Times” by Laruen Wright Pittman
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Worship for the Lord’s Day **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

March 17, 2024
9:30 am

Prelude *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* arr. Phillip Keveren
verse 1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love!

Lighting of the Christ Candle Max Fenstermacher

Words of Welcome Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

***Opening Words** Michele Vickery

One: Why are you here?

**All: I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.**

One: I see it! You’re in the right place! This is God’s house. The door is open to you.

All: Why are you here?

One: I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.

**All: We see that in you! You’re in the right place. This is God’s house.
The door is open to you.**

One: Let us worship God.

All: Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

Call to Confession

Michele

One: Friends, when you study Peter's story in scripture it's almost impossible to ignore how much he loved to ask questions. He asks Jesus:

"What does the parable mean?"

"Where are you going?"

"How many times should we forgive?"

Like a tenacious toddler, Peter was full of questions, because Peter was eager to learn. I wish I was more like that. I still have so much to learn.

So friends, let's be like Peter. Let's return to Christ with the humility of a student as we pray together the prayer of confession. Let this be a moment of learning. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy God, we long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher."

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.

Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.

Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.

Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, "How many times should we forgive?" —make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility we pray, amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Family of faith, when Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should I forgive?" Jesus responded with abundance. That abundance exists for us as well.

No matter what we have done or left undone, no matter what lessons you have learned or are still learning, God's abundant grace exists for you. God's love will never run out.

So let us proclaim the good news:

**All: We are forgiven. We are loved. We are invited to serve.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Michele

One: As a sign of our reconciliation with God and with one another, let us share the peace with one another. The Peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

***Sung Response 695**

Change My Heart, O God

CHANGE MY HEART

Growing with God

Rev. Susan Tindall

Following our time together, all children are invited to remain in Grace Space or join the Faith Formation teachers in Rm LL6 downstairs.

Sung Response



Je-sus loves the lit-tle chil-dren, all the chil-dren of the world. Ev-ery child in ev-ery land, Je-sus holds us in his hand. Je - sus loves the lit - tle chil - dren of the world.

Prayer for Inspiration

Michele

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:9-16

One: How can young people keep their paths pure?
By guarding them according to what you've said.

**All: ¹⁰ I have sought you with all my heart.
Don't let me stray from any of your commandments!**

One: ¹¹ I keep your word close, in my heart, so that I won't sin against you.

All: ¹² You, Lord, are to be blessed! Teach me your statutes.

One: ¹³ I will declare out loud all the rules you have spoken.

All: ¹⁴ I rejoice in the content of your laws as if I were rejoicing over great wealth.

One: ¹⁵ I will think about your precept and examine all your paths.

All: ¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget what you have said.

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:15-22

Beth

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

***Affirmation of Faith**

One: We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

All: "How many times should I forgive?"

"Jesus, where are you going?"

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

One: We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

All: "Where does it hurt?"

"What do you need?"

"How can I help?"

One: We believe that God is a teacher.

All: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

"Here I am."

"Send me."

One: We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,

All: with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength.

One: We believe. Help our unbelief.

All: We believe the teachings of Jesus continue all life long. Amen.

***Hymn 444**

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

DETROIT

Offering Our Gifts to God**Invitation to Offering**

Michele

**Offertory**

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

John Mochnick

Chancel Choir

***Doxology** words 607, tune 606

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

QRCode for Giving

***Prayer of Dedication**

Michele

Church Tidings

Beth

Minute for Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing: Self Development of People

Paul Abraham

Joys & Concerns

Beth

God's People Pray

One: We lift our prayers to God.

All: Lord, hear our prayers.

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

***Hymn 754**

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

***Charge and Blessing**

***Postlude**

O Worship the King

arr. Phillip Keveren

** Please rise in spirit or body*

All speak emboldened type

Liturgy by A Sanctified Art LLC

ACOLYTE: Max Fenstermacher

USHERS: Bill Vickery, Stan Cook

LITURGIST: Michele Vickery

ONLINE WORSHIP HOST: Wendy Cook

AV: Paul Abraham, Sam Dammers

Next Sunday in Worship, March 24

Palm / Passion Sunday

9:30 am

Psalm 24; John 12:12-16

Songs of Loudest Praise





THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Wandering Heart: "Teach me"

Seventy-seven Times

by Lauren Wright Pittman Inspired by Matthew 18:15-22 *Digital painting*



When I'm creating a mandala inspired by a text, I'm able to zoom out and see the bigger picture, and the image itself ends up looking like a bird's eye view, which I think is a helpful perspective sometimes. In this mandala, I wanted to follow a person through the process of reproval, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration as Jesus describes in Matthew 18. In the center, a person is standing alone, isolated, with their arms crossed in a closed-off posture. If you're sinned against, Jesus says to go and "point out the fault when the two

of you are alone" (Matthew 18:15). When you move to the second ring of the mandala, there are pairs of people shaking hands, finding common ground, or at least attempting to. If this doesn't work, then you are to bring more people (one or two more) together to provide counsel and witness. In the third ring of the mandala, two people are engaging with the closed-off person, sharing a way forward. In the next ring hyacinth flowers—which represent sorrow, regret, and forgiveness—stretch, bloom, and grow, bringing beauty into the now open arms of the people in the last ring of the mandala, who are embraced and woven into the community. The person from the center goes from being alone and closed-off to embraced and open.

When I was drawing the figures from the center out, it began to look like a dance. Is this the picture that grace paints? Forgiveness cannot happen in isolation and certainly neither can reconciliation nor restoration. The movement toward wholeness is the movement toward one another.

Perhaps craving more tangibility and practicality, Peter asks how many times he should forgive someone who has wronged him, and Jesus says, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times" (Matthew 18:22). This piece contains seventy-seven people and flowers to represent the abundance of grace that Jesus calls us into. The gold represents the divine presence of empathy, compassion, grace, and love throughout this dance from isolation toward community, from brokenness toward wholeness, and from guilt and shame toward freedom.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

This week at CPC:

Sunday, March 17

9:30 am — Worship

9:45 am — Faith Formation; LL Rm 8
9:45 am — Middle School Bagel Bunch; Youth Lounge
10:45 am — Adult Ed.; Chapel / Hybrid

Monday, March 18

6:30 pm — Finance; Zoom
7:00 pm — CE-C; Zoom
7:00 pm — Concert Series Committee; Zoom

Tuesday, March 19

10:00 am — PW Board meeting; Gathering Room
1:30 pm — Staff Meeting; Chapel/Hybrid
7:00 pm — Communications Committee; Zoom
7:00 pm — Kids' Academy Board; Gathering Room
7:00 pm — Stephen Ministers; Chapel / Hybrid

Wednesday, March 20

6:00 pm — Soup Supper; Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm — Midweek Meditative Service;
Gathering Room / Zoom
7:00 pm — Chancel Choir rehearsal; Sanctuary

Thursday, March 21

9:00 am — Read • Share • Pray; Chapel / Zoom
7:00 pm — APNC meeting; Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm — CE-A, M & O, Amos; Zoom

Friday, March 22

Saturday, March 23

Sunday, March 24

Palm / Passion Sunday

**Receive One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering
NO CPC Youth Activities!**

9:30 am — Worship

9:45 am — Faith Formation; LL Rm 8
10:45 am — Adult Ed.; Chapel / Hybrid

NURSERY CARE

The Nursery will be staffed on **April 21**. Families can drop off their little ones to be cared for by our volunteers. We use a pager system in case a parent is needed. The Nursery is located across from the church office on the main floor and is always open and available for use, even when not staffed by our volunteers.

Live stream of the worship service is offered in the Nursery.



CPC KIDS ~ 3yrs thru 5th grade

After Growing with God, all children are invited to join our leaders in faith formation class. This week we will focus on Matthew 18:15-22. helping the kids focus on forgiveness.



CPC YOUTH ON SUNDAYS!

**Middle School at 9:45 am
High School at 5:00 pm**

Middle School students will be dismissed from the worship service to enjoy some snacks and fellowship time in the Youth Lounge this morning! High School cubes will meet this evening from 5-7:30pm. They will be discussing what it means to be angry with God, enjoy another amazing meal prepared by loving volunteers and end the evening with some rounds of stealth! Please note: CPC Youth activities will not meet during Spring Break/Holy Week Sundays but will resume on April 7!



BIBLE EXPLORERS GROUP

March 17 & April 28

During Sunday worship service

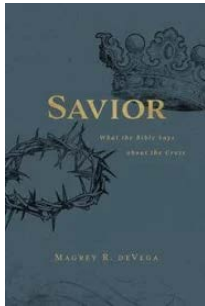
All kids in 3rd - 5th grade are encouraged to participate in our Bible Explorers group. These sessions will be exciting, engaging and experiential. Kids will get a chance to interact with their friends and their bibles in ways that equip and inspire them to read their Bibles regularly at home.



CIRCLE OF VOICES BOOK CLUB MEETS NEXT IN APRIL

Our April book is *The Secret Life of Groceries: The Dark Miracle of the American Super Market* by Benjamin Lorr. It will be available at the Clarendon Hills Library at the end of March.

For more information contact Barb Coop.



ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASS LENTEN STUDY

March 17
10:45-11:45 am

This Sunday, we move to the fifth week of our six-week study of *Savior: What the Bible Says About the Cross*, written by Magrey R. DeVega. This book helps us to wrestle with what the Cross means to us. It explores atonement, God's action to bring us fully into relationship with God. DeVega digs into six Bible-based theories of what atonement means. This week, we will look at **Cleansing Atonement, which focuses on God's removing our sin.**

This week's class will be led by Cyndi Frost and will incorporate a short video from the author to get our discussion started.

We still have some extra copies of the book, and we strongly urge you to read it, so that you can get the whole impact of the study. But even if you don't read the book ahead of time, still come to class. And if you wish to help defray the costs of the books, we are happy to accept.

We will meet in the chapel and on Zoom at 10:45 on Sunday, March 17. [Zoom link](#)

EXODUS: CELEBRATION OF HOPE DINNER

Thursday, April 4

Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace

5:00-6:00 pm Check-In & Reception

6:00-8:15 pm Complimentary Dinner & Program



You're invited to a joy-filled evening in support of welcoming refugees!

On April 4, join with fellow church members at Drury Lane for *Celebration of Hope*. Our friends at Exodus World Service will share inspiring stories of refugees and their connections with the volunteers who welcome them. There will be exciting updates on new ways to welcome, as well as an opportunity to partner with Exodus to help give refugees practical help and hope as they rebuild their lives. Register and learn more at exodusworldservice.org or scan the QR code with your phone camera. Contact Linda Cirillo at lcirillo2@comcast.net with questions.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

PC(USA) Special Offering

February 18-March 24

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing support efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Fish banks for children and adults are available in the narthex. We continue to share updates about how the PC(USA) distributes and supports many different initiatives through this special offering. We will dedicate these donations on Palm Sunday, March 24.

Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith with Peter

Season of LENT Figuring out Faith with Peter

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

Meditative Worship preceded by Soup Supper

Mar 20

Gather in fellowship hall for a light supper of soup at 6:00 pm followed by Meditative worship in the Gathering Room, 6:30 - 6:55. Zoom link for Meditative Worship 6:30 - 6:55 is

<https://zoom.us/j/94986615729?pwd=TzdScDluWUlXSmdJQ05wVEhoSjZDdz09>

MEAL A MONTH COLLECTION

Food Pantries are in desperate need. Fill a bag with grocery items to be donated to Hinsdale Community Services. Any non-perishable items will be most welcome! Pick up a bag in the narthex or use your own and return to CPC. Thank you for your generous donations.



The suggested menu is:

- Cereal and Pancake Mix
- Mac & Cheese
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Beans
- Rice
- Canned Tuna or chicken
- Salad Dressing
- Paper Products

Any non-perishable items will be most welcome! Pick up a bag in the narthex or use your own and return to CPC. Thank you for your generous donations.



CPC Church Family Trivia Night!

April 14, 5:00-7:00 pm

Neat Kitchen & Bar in Westmont

Mark your calendars for a night of competition, food and fun at Neat Kitchen & Bar in Westmont! Come test your trivia knowledge while learning about the many opportunities for Youth at CPC. Teams will be randomly selected but if you grab a friend (adults or students), they can be your guaranteed teammate! An event link will be appearing in the Thursday emails for you to sign up and get ready for April 14!

Celebrate Holy Week with CPC!



PALM SUNDAY Sunday, March 24

- 9:30 am worship in person and live-streamed
- Palm Processional from the garden
- Easter Story garden walk



GOOD FRIDAY Friday, March 29

- 7:00 pm worship in person and live-streamed
- Tenebrae Service of candlelight and darkness



EASTER SUNDAY Sunday, March 31

- 7:00 am Sunrise Garden Worship
- 9:30 am Easter Worship in person and live-streamed
- Easter Story garden walk



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www.chcpc.org [Follow us on Facebook](#)

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