



"Beseeching" by Hannah Garrity
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Worship for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2024, 9:30 am

Prelude

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Carol Tornquist

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

Liz Monson

One: On our worst days,

All: God is good.

One: On our best days,

All: God is good.

One: When life is consistent,

All: God is good.

One: And when life turns on its head,

All: God is good.

One: Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

All: God is good. God is here. God is love.

One: Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

Call to Confession

Liz

One: There's a moment in our scripture today when Jesus turns to Peter, named "the rock" of the church, and says, "Get behind me, Satan!"

I don't know about you all, but that's a pretty bad day for Peter.

It's a pretty bad day when Jesus calls you Satan!

Fortunately, this absurd moment comforts me with the knowledge that even Peter made mistakes. Peter, who was given the keys to Heaven. Peter, Jesus' right-hand man, made mistakes just like me. And still, Jesus chose him.

Knowing that, let us speak honestly with God. For even on our worst days, we belong to God, and that will never change. Join me in prayer—

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy God, we often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, "This should not happen!" We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God, no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change—we worship a God of grace.

All: Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine. We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven. Let's follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world. Amen.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Liz

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

Beth

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

Liz

Scripture Reading

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

One: "Give thanks to the LORD because he is good,
because his faithful love lasts forever!"

All: ² **That's what those who are redeemed by the LORD say,
the ones God redeemed from the power of their enemies,**

One: ³ the ones God gathered from various countries,
from east and west, north and south.

All: ¹⁷ **Some of the redeemed were fools because of their sinful ways.
They suffered because of their wickedness.**

One: ¹⁸ They had absolutely no appetite for food;
they had arrived at death's gates.

All: ¹⁹ **So they cried out to the LORD in their distress,
and God saved them from their desperate circumstances.**

One: ²⁰ God gave the order and healed them;
he rescued them from their pit.

All: ²¹ **Let them thank the LORD for his faithful love
and his wondrous works for all people.**

One: ²² Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
and declare what God has done in songs of joy!

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:21-23

Beth

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

I'm Fixed Upon It

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

*Affirmation of Faith

One: I believe in a God of second chances,

All: a God who sees through my stubbornness and holds my fear with tenderness.

One: I believe that this God of second chances uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.

All: Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.

One: I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.

All: This change is holy and important work, although challenging. When fear and scarcity plague me, or when the impossible feels out of reach, I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.

One: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

All: Amen.

*Hymn 718

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

BOURBON

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation to Offering

Liz

Offertory

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

Chancel Choir

***Doxology** words 607, tune 606 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

Liz



QRCode for Giving

Church Tidings

Beth

Minute for Mission: Thirty Hour Famine

Joys & Concerns

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 826**

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

***Charge and Blessing**

***Postlude**

O Zion, Haste

arr. Cindy Berry

** Please rise in spirit or body*

All speak emboldened type

Liturgy by A Sanctified Art LLC

ACOLYTE: Max Fenstermacher

LITURGIST: Liz Monson

ONLINE WORSHIP HOST: Linda Cirillo

AV: Paul Abraham

Next Sunday in Worship, March 17

Fifth Sunday of Lent

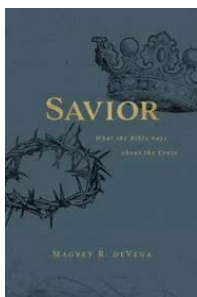
9:30 am

Matthew 18:15-22; Psalm 119:9-116

Teach Me



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



ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASS

LENTEN STUDY

March 10

10:45-11:45 am

This Sunday, we move to the fourth 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 Reconciliation Atonement, which focuses on our relationship with God and with each other.

This week’s class will be led by Gregg Morton 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 10. [Zoom link](#)



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Wandering Heart: "I'm fixed upon it"



Beseeking

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Matthew

16:21-23 Ink on paper

"God forbid it!" says Peter to Jesus (Matthew 16:22). In this image, Peter beseeches Jesus to avoid the cross, to not let the prophecies become reality.

After ten years in ministry, I work in a church for the first time. In this text, I feel Jesus speaking directly to me: "You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (Matthew 16:23). This is exactly where frustration surfaces for me in my amazing church job. It is when I have set my eye on human things. I worry about the budget. I worry about the email. I worry about the building. So why am I so focused on human things? And the negative ones, at that?

Because I'm human. Because these things matter. But not if I miss the grandeur of this incredible organization sharing the expansive love of God!

With every brush stroke in this ink painting, the humanity of Peter's face deepens, his expression clarifies. He cannot let his beloved friend be murdered. He worries about human things. How weighty and legitimate those things feel. Jesus seems free of those human worries. He focuses with confidence on the path ahead, though Peter's concern causes him to falter.

Perhaps we can each be free of human concerns as well... However, that feels like a pipe dream, and Jesus knows it: "Get behind me, Satan" (Matthew 16:23). He does not blame Peter. Instead, he calls out Satan from within his friend. In doing so, he offers us a much needed reminder to refocus. Thanks be to God. —Hannah Garrity

This week at CPC:

Sunday, March 10

9:30 am — Worship

9:45 am — Faith Formation; LL Rm 6

10:40 am — Civil Rights Pilgrimage meeting;
Gathering Room

10:45 am — Adult Ed.; Chapel / Hybrid

2:00 pm — 30 Hour Famine ends

Monday, March 11

7:00 pm — Session; Chapel / Hybrid

Tuesday, March 12

1:30 pm — Staff Meeting; Chapel/Hybrid

Wednesday, March 13

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 14

9:00 am — Read • Share • Pray; Chapel / Zoom

7:00 pm — APNC meeting; Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm — Endowment; Chapel

Friday, March 15

5:30 pm — Spaghetti Dinner; Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 16

2:00 pm — Suzanne & Jim Wear Funeral; Sanctuary

Sunday, March 17

9:30 am — Worship

9:45 am — Faith Formation; LL Rm 6

9:45 am — Bible Explorers Group; LL Rm 8

10:45 am — Adult Ed.; Chapel / Hybrid

NURSERY CARE

The Nursery will be staffed on **April 7**. 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 16:21-23 learning how God's way is the right way. The kids will listen to a story, make a craft and share their thoughts on this Bible passage.



CPCkids

CPC YOUTH ON SUNDAY NIGHTS WILL RESUME ON 3/17!!

Middle School: 9:45am

High School: 5-7:30pm

Middle School Youth Group and High School Cubes will resume on 03/17! This week, high school students will be taking part in the 30 Hour Famine with World Vision. When we return, middle school will have their last bagel brunch of the program year on Sunday morning! High school will meet from 5-7:30pm with small group conversations, dinner and games! Looking forward to a wonderful few weeks in CPC Youth Ministry! Please note: Middle School students, bring a list of your upcoming sport events/concerts/art shows/plays/etc on 3/17! We will be making plans to bring the CPC Cheering section out to your April events!



CPC YOUTH
Connect • Explore • Serve



BIBLE EXPLORERS GROUP

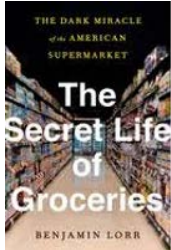
March 17 & April 28

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.

SUPPORT OUR CPC 30 HOUR FAMINE TEAM!

Our students will be breaking their fast at 2:00pm today but you still have time to support our team! We are collecting donations in the narthex following worship today or you can donate online! Keep offering your prayers and sharing your encouragement as the last stretch is always the hardest. We learn so much from this experience together and how a little bit goes a long way when fighting against hunger locally and globally!



CIRCLE OF VOICES BOOK CLUB WILL NOT MEET IN MARCH

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

For more information contact Barb Coop.

News of THE AMOS GROUP

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24

[Take a tour of Civil Rights sites in the deep south!](#)



The time has come to register for this October tour, which goes to sites in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. **People at CPC and at Fourth Presbyterian have “first dibs” on this, if we register by April 1.** After that, the invitation will be extended to the whole Presbytery. We expect this experience to have a powerful impact on our understanding of how racism has shaped our country in the past – and still does today.

For more details, [click on this link for the brochure](#). There is a registration URL in the brochure.

Please send your questions, ideas or comments to Gregg Morton.

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.



SPAGHETTI DINNER

Friday, March 15

5:30pm

\$10 - Adults

\$5 - Children under 12

Payable at the door



CEC is sponsoring an intergenerational event to help raise funds for the High School Youth Caravans (aka summer mission trips)! Please join us as we share a meal together and then play games for all ages! We will serve spaghetti with or without meatballs & sauce, buttered pasta, salad, garlic bread & beverages!

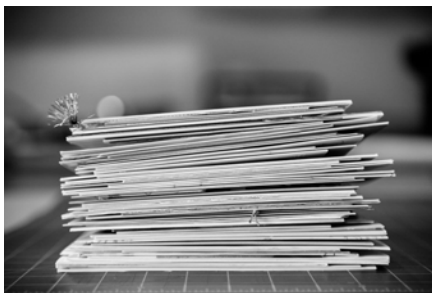
If you would like to donate a dessert item, please reach out to Kristin Duy [HERE](#). [RSVP here with the # attending](#)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

PC(USA) Special Offering

February 18-March 24

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports 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 will continue to share updates about how the PC(USA) distributes and supports so many different initiatives through this special offering. We will dedicate these donations on Palm Sunday, March 24.



MINISTRY OF THE CARDS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Bring cards to the church office

The Deacons reach out in many ways but one that we consistently love to do is send cards to people who have requested prayer. It reminds people that their joy or concern is prayed over many times beyond Sunday mornings. If you have cards either sent to you by charitable organizations or maybe just sitting unused at home, please share them with the Deacons by bringing them to the church office! Thank you for supporting this ministry!



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 6, Mar 13, 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=TzdScDluWUlxSmdJQ05wVEhoSjZDdzog>



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!

 <p>PALM SUNDAY Sunday, March 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 am worship in person and live-streamed • Palm Processional from the garden • Easter Story garden walk 	 <p>GOOD FRIDAY Friday, March 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00 pm worship in person and live-streamed • Tenebrae Service of candlelight and darkness 	 <p>EASTER SUNDAY Sunday, March 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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 Susan Tindall
 Kristin Duy
 Jane Hudgins
 Sintia Arambula
 Christopher Cock
 Jason Hill
 Stephanie Rens-Domiano
 Paula Cyphers
 Kris Veenbaas
 Laurie Scola
 Shannon Nyhart
 Stephen Ministers

Pastor / Head of Staff
 Transitional Associate Pastor
 Director of Children & Family Ministries
 Director of Kids' Academy
 Assistant Director of Kids' Academy
 Director of Music Ministries
 Church Musician
 Director of Digital Platforms
 Co-Director of Older Adult Ministries
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