



Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day



First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2018



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.
From www.umc.org

Prelude

"Improvisation"

by Nick Johns-Cooper

Westminster Peal

Choral Call to Worship

"Within Your Shelter, Loving God"

John G. Dunn

Within your shelter; loving God, my refuge and my tower, I safely walk by day and night beneath your guiding power. All those who know your name on earth shall life abundant know. On all abiding in your love your saving grace bestow.

Gathering as the Children of God

Elizabeth Small

One: We are gathered to worship our God.

All: Send your Spirit upon us.

One: We come from many places, with many burdens.

All: Send your Spirit upon us.

One: We turn our hearts to you, O God.

All: Send your Spirit upon us, and prepare us to hear your good news.

† Opening Hymn No. 13

"Prepare the Way"

Prayer of Confession (unison)

"Wilderness" by John Birch

Elizabeth Small

Forty days alone, a wilderness of thoughts, tempting and inviting thoughts, which could so easily have distracted you from your task, your mission, your vision. Yet you emerged, stronger and more attuned to all that had to be done, despite a time constraint that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless. We too live in stressful times. Demands are made of our time that leave so little for the important things of life. We are easily distracted in the wilderness of our lives, by every call to go this way or that, to turn stone to bread, leap from mountains, and do all that would keep us from the truth. We listen to the voices of this world, and ignore the one who endured all this and so much more, and emerged triumphant, that we might not have to suffer so. Forgive us, Father, when we get distracted from our task. Forgive us those times when we try to be all things to all people and fail to be anything to anyone. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Elizabeth Small

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

† Response

“Glory Be to the Father”

(hymn no. 579)

**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. Amen.**



Prayer for Illumination

Elizabeth Small

Scripture Lesson (p. 219NT)

1 Peter 3:18-22

Elizabeth Small

Anthem/Special Music

“Lift High the Cross”

by George Kitchin, Michael Newbolt,
Sir Sidney Nicholson, arr. by Carl Schalk

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

*Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ,
the son of God...*

*Led on their way by this triumphant sign, the hosts of god in conquering
ranks combine...*

*All newborn children of the crucified bear on their brows the seal of him
who died...*

*O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us all
to thee...*

So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the crucified for victory!

Born in 1929, Carl Schalk is an active composer, lecturer, and scholar. Schalk was a professor of church music at Concordia University Chicago for almost 40 years and was instrumental in the development of much of the liturgical and musical organization of the Lutheran church in the late twentieth century.

Children’s Time

See children’s options on back of bulletin

Scripture Lesson (p. 33NT)

Mark 1:9-15

Rev. Susan Haynes

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Journeying with Jesus: Wilderness Preparation”

Rev. Haynes

† **Affirmation of Faith**

from the Scots Confession

Rev. Haynes

The cause of good works, we confess, is not our free will, but the Spirit of the Lord Jesus, who dwells in our hearts by true faith, brings forth such works as God has prepared for us to walk in... For as soon as the Spirit of the Lord Jesus, whom God’s chosen children receive by true faith, takes possession of the heart of any person, so soon does he regenerate and renew them... But the children of God fight against sin; sob and mourn when they find themselves tempted to do evil; and, if they fall, rise again with earnest and unfeigned repentance. They do these things, not by their own power, but by the power of the Lord Jesus, apart from whom they can do nothing.



† **Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Haynes

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Please exchange greetings of peace and welcome with your neighbor.

† **Hymn No. 81**

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

Church Family Life

Rev. Haynes

Please take this time to pass the attendance notebooks located at the end of the pew row. If you are a visitor, we invite you to visit our information center located in the Narthex.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Haynes



Offering

Offertory

"Trio (no.1 from Ten Trios, opus 49)"

by Rheinberger

† **Response**

The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

† **Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer**

Elizabeth Small

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.

† **Closing Hymn No. 538**

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

† **Benediction**

Rev. Haynes

† **Congregational Response**

"Amen"

(hymn no. 588)

† **Postlude** *"Antiphon V: How Fair and How Pleasant Art Thou"*

by Marcel Dupre

† Those who are able, please stand

The hymn tune for "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing" is reportedly the tune sung in unison by ancient Sicilian seaman at the close of each day at sea. The tune traveled from Italy into Germany and finally arrived in England where it was first published in 1792. The tune also had an influence on the melody of the spiritual "We Shall Overcome."

Worship Enrichment. Worship Enrichment is led by Carrie Southard at the 11:00 service after the Children's time. Children, kindergarten - 2nd grade, are invited to join Carrie in the chapel for worship enrichment activities. The children will return to their parents during the Hymn following the "Passing of the Peace." Children 4 years and younger who opt to attend 11:00 worship until the children's time, will depart for childcare to Room 120 for the remainder of the service.



MVPC Mission Statement

Blessed to Be a Blessing

We are a Presbyterian church filled with love and energy – an inclusive congregation committed to spiritual growth through *worship, study, fellowship, and service.*

- As **children of God**, we seek to *praise* God in worship and in all that we say and do
- As **disciples of Jesus Christ**, we *listen* to scripture, tradition, one another, and the world in order to understand God's will for us as individuals and as a community
- As **members of a family of faith**, we strive to *love* one another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles
- **Moved by the Spirit**, we serve our gracious God by taking that with which we have been blessed and turning it into blessings for others.



Giving to MVPC is easy online

<http://mvpchurch.org/index.php/donate/>

MVPC Staff

Rev. Susan Haynes, Interim Pastor
TJ Shirley, Minister of Worship & Arts
Elizabeth Small, Dir. of Youth Ministry
Rev. Ricardo Green, Pastor of Spanish Ministries
Nick Johns-Cooper, Organist

Lillianette Cook, Handbell Choir Director
Steve Ray, Church Finance & Operations
Jill Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Yvonne White, Financial Secretary
Lauren McClintock, Communications & Membership Coord.