



Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 11, 2018



Our guest organist today is Dr. Kenneth Sass. Dr. Sass holds a Bachelor of Music from Westminster Choir College and a Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan.

Prelude *"O God, Thou Faithful God: Op. 122, No. 7"* by Johannes Brahms

Westminster Peal

Choral Call to Worship *"Forty Days and Forty Nights"*
by George Hunt Smyttan, Martin Herbst

*Shall not we your sorrow share and from worldly joy abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?
Keep, O keep us, Savior dear; ever constant by your side,
That with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.*

Gathering as the Children of God Elder Donna Martin

One: Come, all who need help!

All: Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and earth.

One: Come, all who desire blessing!

All: Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.

One: Come, all who long for salvation!

All: Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.

† **Opening Hymn No. 457** *"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) Elder Martin

God of salvation, you shower our lives and our world with love, yet we too often turn away from your blessing. It is just so easy to complain! There are little annoyances each day, but they pile up into a mountainous burden that becomes a curse on our lives. Free us from our unwise choices, O God. When we are distracted and confused, redirect our attention to the abundant opportunities to experience your love. During this journey of Lent, focus our hearts on you, that we may choose the blessing of salvation offered us each day through Jesus Christ, in whom we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Elder Martin

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

Anthem/Special Music

"Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs"

by Antonio Lotti

Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

Time with the Children

Rev. Susan Haynes

See children's options on back of bulletin

Scripture Lesson (p. 88NT)

John 3:1-17

Rev. Haynes

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Journeying with Jesus: Being Born Anew"

Rev. Haynes

† Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

We welcome into the family of God through baptism Warren James Dreger, son of Eva and Philip Dreger.

Antonio Lotti, 1667-1740, was an Italian composer during the Baroque period. Lotti spent his entire career at St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice, excepting sabbaticals during which he composed for governmental functions and other secular patrons.

"The meaning of baptism is many-faceted. Baptism proclaims God's grace and love for us. In baptism, God claims us and marks us as God's own. Baptism signifies our engrafting into Christ, and so affirms our new identity as members of the body of Christ. Through the waters of baptism, we participate in Christ's death and resurrection by which we die to all that separates us from God and are raised to new life in Christ. In baptism we are assured of cleansing from sin, of inclusion in God's grace and covenant, and of the gift of the Holy Spirit." From the PC (USA) Book of Common Worship

† Hymn No. 496

"Lord Jesus Christ, Our Lord Most Dear"

† 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. 83

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

The fanfare will sound between each of the verses.

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

Elizabeth Small



Offering

Offertory

"O Lamb of God, Guiltless: BWV 618"

by J. S. Bach

† 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. 376

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

† Benediction

Rev. Haynes

† Congregational Response

"Amen"

(hymn no. 588)

† Postlude

"We All Believe in One God, Creator: BWV 680"

by J.S. Bach

Worship Enrichment. Worship Enrichment is led by Carrie Southard at the 11:00 service after the children's time. Children, K - 5th 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

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