

Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

Fifth Sunday in Lent March 18, 2018





Prelude "O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde groß: BWV622" by J. S. Bach

Westminster Peal

Choral Call to Worship

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

by George Hunt Smyttan, Martin Herbst

So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be; Round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served you faithfully. 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 Christy Hill

One: How beautiful is the word of the Lord!

All: How wise are God's commandments!

One: Through the Lord's precepts, we gain understanding.

All: Through God's wisdom, we find truth.
One: The Lord is our God; we are God's people.

All: God's word lives within us, for it is written on our hearts.

One: Living Word, Great Teacher, lead us and guide us!

All: Amen and Amen!

† Opening Hymn No. 344

"Christ of the Upward Way"

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Hill

Lord, we confess that we love our lives as they are. We struggle with even the idea of change. We wrestle with the thought of doing things differently. But we know that the life we cling to is only a half-life. Only you, O Lord, can give us true life in full. Forgive us for holding onto the wrong things. Teach us by your Spirit to let go of our agendas and assumptions. Help us to let go of our self-righteousness and false notions of power. Give us the strength and courage to try new things. Encourage us – and even push us – to let go of ourselves so we can fully embrace you, Holy God. We pray these things in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Elder Hill

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 (691 OT)

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Elizabeth Small

Anthem/Special Music

Richard Hillert

was an American composer

musician who taught for four

and church

decades at

Concordia University

Chicago.

Hillert was a

prolific composer, writing

for choir as

well as symphony orches-

tra and cham-

ber ensembles.

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" by Robert L. Edwards and Richard Hillert

God whose giving, knows no ending, from your rich and endless store;
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.
Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Christ made one,
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants, fit to answer at your throne.
Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace

Ours to use, for home and kindred, and to spread the Gospel Word. Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call, Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by serving all.

Time with the Children

conferred:

Rev. Susan Haynes

See children's options on back of bulletin

Scripture Lesson (100 NT) John 12:20-33 Rev. Haynes

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Journeying with Jesus: Losing and Keeping Rev. Haynes

† Affirmation of Faith The Second Helvetic Confession

Those who are in the Church have one faith and one spirit; and therefore they worship but one God, and him alone they worship in spirit and in truth, loving him alone with all their hearts and with all their strength, praying unto him alone through Jesus Christ, the only Mediator and Intercessor; and they do not seek righteousness and life outside Christ and faith in him. Because they acknowledge Christ the only head and foundation of the Church, and, resting on him, daily renew themselves by repentance, and patiently bear the cross laid upon them. Amen.

The Second Helvetic (Latin for "Swiss") Confession was composed by Heinrich Bullinger, the minister who succeeded Ulrich Zwingli at the church in Zurich. The confession was composed with a moderate tone in the hope that it could be used by all Protestant churches which were sweeping across Europe during the Reformation of the time.



† 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. 384

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

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 and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Haynes

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.



Offering

Offertory "Ah, Holy Jesus, how hast Thou Offended"

by Helmut Walcha

† 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

Elizabeth Small

† Closing Hymn No. 393

"Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"

† **Benediction** Rev. Haynes

† Congregational Response "Amen" (hymn no. 588)

† **Postlude** *"Improvisation"* by Nick Johns-Cooper

† Those who are able, please stand

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" -The lyricist for this hymn, George Matheson, was a Scottish minister who lived from 1842-1906. Matheson became completely blind at the age of 20, but resolved to be a minister nonetheless. The words for this hymn were written on the eve before his sister's wedding. His sister had cared for him during his studies in seminary and these words were composed in realization that he needed to be solely dependent on God's love and care.

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

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.