



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.



† **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

"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.

† Those who are able, please stand

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.