

Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

4th Sunday in Lent
March 31, 2019



† Those who are able, please stand

Westminster Peal

Prelude *"Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross"* William Doane (1832-1915), Arr. Mark Hayes

GATHERING

Welcome and Church Family Life

Rev. Susan Haynes

Choral Introit

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"
*O Sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown;
How pale Thou art with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish
Which once was bright as morn!*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

† Gathering as the Children of God

Rev. Haynes

One: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

All: *For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.*

One: Psalm 37:7 says, "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him."

All: *We will wait on you, Lord.*

One: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

All: *We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!*

One: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

All: *AMEN!*

† Hymn No. 281

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

† Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Elder Mary McClurg

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways.

Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance.

You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty.

You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions.

***You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing,
but we break your law and forsake your love.***

*Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance.
Draw our wandering hearts back to you
that we may find freedom in obedience to your love,
through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.*

† Assurance of Pardon

Elder McClurg

One: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

All: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!*

† Response (#347)

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

v. 1 *"Forgive our sins as we forgive," You taught us, Lord to pray.*

But You alone can grant us grace To live the words we say.

v. 4 *Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls And bid resentment cease.*

Then, bound to all in bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

† Passing of the Peace

Elder McClurg

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Elizabeth Small

Gospel Lesson

Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32

Elizabeth Small

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

See bulletin insert - *"The Prodigal Son"*

Anthem/Special Music

"Sheep May Safely Graze" BWV 208
Sheep may safely graze and pasture
In a watchful shepherd's sight.
Those who rule, with wisdom guiding,
Bring to hearts a peace abiding,
Bless a land with joy made bright.
Like a shepherd God doth guide us
Into pastures calm and blest;
Safe we lie by peaceful waters,
And like sheep securely rest,
Though the valley dark is growing,
Clouds are gathering, winds are blowing,
Night and death are drawing near,
Yet no danger shall alarm me,
Death and darkness never can harm me,
In His arms I feel no fear.

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Sermon

"When We Don't Get Rescued"

Rev. Haynes



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
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Matthias Young, Interim Dir. of Music
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Yvonne White, Financial Secretary
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