

Maundy Thursday

April 6, 2023

6:00 p.m. Worship



**There is hope for someday, but someday is not now.**

**There is a Christian version of this story. Holy Week begins with Jesus welcomed like a hero. Expectations are soaring: Jesus will fix everything. But by the end of the week, his best friends betray him, and he is convicted as a criminal and sentenced to death. He will rise from the dead and someday bring this world to a beautiful conclusion and wipe every tear from every eye.**

**There is hope for someday, but someday is not now.**

--Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie, *Good Enough*

First Presbyterian Church  
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**MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT:** REV. DR. SANDRA R. TICE

**MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT:** REV. DR. STEPHEN SMITH

**COMMISSIONED LOCAL PASTOR:** DR. WENDY L. LAMB

**PASTOR EMERITUS:** REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;  
WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST; AMY GANO, BELLS

**Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church**

**PRELUDE**

**SILENT PROCESSION**

**INVITATION to WORSHIP**

In the quiet of this evening, we ponder the mysterious love of God,  
That reaches out to us when we shout with joy  
and when we cry out our lament  
And is at work transforming our lives and our world.

**SUNG REFRAIN<sup>1</sup>**

*Jacques Berthier*

**Stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, Night will soon fall.  
Then stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
Light in our darkness.**

Fear and trust write a story in each of our lives,  
In each one of us there is willingness to risk, and also resistance.  
Jesus welcomes us just as we are.

**Stay with us, O Lord, Jesus Christ, Night will soon fall.  
Then stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
Light in our darkness.**

We gather together, knowing that beauty and brokenness  
Dwell together in each one of us.  
Tonight we remember that the love of God in Christ redeems it all.

**Stay with us, O Lord, Jesus Christ, Night will soon fall.  
Then stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
Light in our darkness.**

**HYMN 470 *There Is a Longing***

**READING: Matthew 5:1-11**

**REFLECTION**

**A BLESSING**

*Blessed am I* when I lose sleep over what troubles me. When my worries keep me watching the clock tick by. When I have no energy to do anything but fret. The kingdom of God is here and now.

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*Blessed am I* when I am drowning in grief. When wave after wave after wave crashes over me. When I start to feel okay, then something reminds me of what I've lost, and I'm pulled under once again. God comforts me.

*Blessed am I* when I feel silenced and afraid to speak up. When I am forgotten and left out. When I feel small and feel as though my work, my presence, my life doesn't matter. The whole world is mine.

*Blessed am I* when I am starving for justice. When the world around me feels so unfair that I could scream, but no one seems to be listening. No one seems to care. God's justice flows like a river.

*Blessed am I* when someone hurts me, when I feel offended, and I don't return insult with insult. Instead, I forgive, recognizing the number of times I've needed to be forgiven.

*Blessed am I* when I strip away all the extra. When I see the world as it really is—broken, tender, fragile, beautiful. These are the same eyes that see God in everything too.

*Blessed am I* when I face hardships of all sorts. Insults, hurt feelings, lies, and vindictive neighbors (why is loving your *actual* neighbor so hard, God?). Blessed am I when I work to usher in God's kingdom of love and compassion and justice and forgiveness and peace, even when it's hard.

✘ ***Blessed are we. The imperfect and don't-have-it-all-together. God's beloved.***

**ANTHEM**                      *Lamb of God Chorale*<sup>2</sup>      arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Lamb of God most holy, Who on the cross didst suffer, Patient still and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer; Our sins by Thee were taken, Or hope had us forsaken: Have mercy on us, O Jesu!

**READING: John 13:1-14**

*New Testament, pg. 107*

## **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE**

#### **SURSUM CORDA**

The Lord be with you.

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✘ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✘ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

✘ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **GREAT PRAYER of THANKSGIVING**

### **SANCTUS**

*James C. Huffstutler*

**Holy, holy, Lord Almighty, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Glory in the highest.**

**Blessed, blessed,**

**blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### **PRAYER of CONSECRATION**

Merciful God, send now, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and cup and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

And let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of the one who dries our tears, and brings light into our darkness.

✘ **Amen.**

### **The WORDS of INSTITUTION**

#### **SERVING of the BREAD and CUP**

*(Communion will be served by intinction at two stations.*

*Come up the center aisle to a station, receive bread, dip it in the cup, eat it, and return by the side aisle. There are gluten free elements on the pulpit side.)*

### **ANTHEM**

#### ***God So Loved the World***

*John Stainer*

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. God so loved the world.

## **PRAYER after COMMUNION**

- ✘ Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands,  
Now we put our lives into yours.  
Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past.  
What we shall be, through you, still awaits us.  
Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

## **READING: John 13:34**

*New Testament, pg. 107*

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

## **STRIPPING of the SANCTUARY IN SILENCE**

*(Following the stripping of the sanctuary, we invite you to join us in silence outside on the plaza where we have created a garden for tonight. We will read our final scripture there, and you are invited to remain in prayer as long as you wish and depart in silence as you are ready.)*

## **The GARDEN VIGIL**

**Luke 22:39-53**

*Please leave this darkness in silence, as we anticipate the death of Jesus and recall his suffering. We wait together in hope for Christ, the light of the world, who will return to us on Easter.*

***We invite you to Easter Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.***

*Banner created by Mary Newman.*

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*"#Blessing" from Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection  
by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission. Purchase the book  
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