

First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood Worship Fifth Sunday in Lent – April 3, 2022

*All who are able, please stand.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & SHARING OF CHURCH LIFE

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

(based on Psalm 36)

No matter how far we wander from you, O God,

your steadfast love finds us.

No matter how unjust the world seems to us, O God,

your steadfast righteousness sustains us.

No matter how vulnerable our lives seem to us, O God,

your steadfast presence gives us hope.

No matter how unloved and uncared for we feel, O God,

you hear our cries and answer our prayers. Thanks be to God!

*HYMN #213

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

RATHBUN

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy, never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,

- from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified; peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.
- 5 In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

LENTEN CANDLE RITUAL REFLECTION & EXTINGUISHING OF THE FIFTH CANDLE PRAYER

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me; all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Refuge of our hearts, we must speak of how we have not made you the center of our lives. We look for shelter in the false security of the world, not in your promises. Our fears are driven by our emotions and decisions, not by our trust in you. We look to the powerful, the beautiful, the athletic to be our role models, instead of the One who comes in your name. Have mercy on us, our Light and our Hope, and touch us with your forgiving grace. Fill our hearts with your presence, so we might recognize the One who has come to gather us up and lead us into your Kingdom, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to whom we silently confess now. (silent confession)

WORDS OF NEW LIFE

based on Philippians 3:17-4:1

God does not give us up to the temptations and ways of the world, but shelters us with love, with hope, with grace. We can live as forgiven people and claim:

We are God's. God will find us. God will love us back to life. Amen!

*RESPONSE #468

"Lord, Be Glorified"

1 In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified. In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

2 In your church, Lord, be glorified; be glorified. In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you: and also with you. (For the safety of all, please share the peace with a smile or wave from your seat.)

GATHERING SONG #518

"Lamb of God"

Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side to walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God! O wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 36:5-7

⁵ LORD, your constant love reaches the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the skies. ⁶ Your righteousness is towering like the mountains; your justice is like the depths of the sea. People and animals are in your care. ⁷ How precious, O God, is your constant love! We find protection under the shadow of your wings. 8 We feast on the abundant food you provide; you let us drink from the river of your goodness. 9 You are the source of all life, and because of your light we see the light.

ANTHEM

"When Twilight Comes"

arr. Campbell (Hymn #195)

1 When twilight comes and the sun sets, mother hen prepares for night's rest. As her brood shelters under her wings she gives the love of God to her nest.

O! what joy to feel her warm heart beat and be near her all night long; so the young can find repose, then renew tomorrow's song.

- 2 One day the Rabbi, Lord Jesus, called the twelve to share his last meal. As the hen tends her young, so for them he spent himself to seek and to heal. O! what joy to be with Christ Jesus, hear his voice, O! sheer delight, and receive his servant care, all before the coming night.
- 3 So gather round once again, friends, touched by fading glow of sun's gold, and recount all our frail human hopes, the dreams of young and stories of old. O! what joy to pray close together, kneeling as one family, by a mother's love embraced in the blessed Trinity.

SCRIPTURE Luke 13:31-35

³¹ At that time, some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." ³² He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' ³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

³⁴ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you, who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

SERMON

"The Fox and the Hen"

Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower

*HYMN #7

"Mothering of God, You Gave Me Birth"

NORWICH

- 1 Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world. Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
- 2 Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,

- grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.
- 3 Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close, so that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.

INVITATION TO RECEIVE OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

fpcedgewood.org/donate

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

RESPONSE #555

"O Lamb of God"

LAND OF REST

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us, Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

If you have not already done so, please get the bread and cup from the trays at the entrance to partake of the elements from your seat when directed.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **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.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You made a way through the sea, a path through the waters.

Even now you are doing a new thing—making rivers flow in the desert, forming a people for yourself, that we might declare your praise.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:



You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, and cast out demons, seeking to gather your children as a hen shelters her brood beneath her wings. He wept over Jerusalem when we rejected his saving love.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this cup and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming.

Great is the mystery of faith:



Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world. Help us to stand firm in the faith, as citizens of heaven, awaiting the coming of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is shared. Please partake of the elements as directed from your seat.

SHARING OF THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REQUESTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN #435** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

IN BABILONE

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
 There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
 There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
 There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.
- 2 For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind. And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

- If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word, and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.
- 3 There is welcome for the sinner, love and grace like a flood;
 There is mercy with the Savior;
 There is healing in His blood.
 There's a power in God's presence Covered by Love's brooding wings We'll find refuge, peace and joy And the hope God's shelter brings

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participants in this worship service:

The Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower, guest pastor | Elder Florence Raisig, liturgist Shaun Cloonan, minister of music | Sunny Sakai, pianist The Sanctuary Choir | John Foster, videographer

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This service may be found posted on our website at www.fpcedgewood.org, on our YouTube channel, or audio only on our SoundCloud channel at www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood



Welcome! Thanks be to God for allowing us to worship with you!

UPDATED IN-PERSON WORSHIP GUIDELINES: Due to the CDC's updated version of tracking COVID community levels, Allegheny County is now Low. As a result, the Worship Committee has begun to slowly relax some of our guidelines for in-person worship:

- **Masks are now optional for all in attendance.** We will continue to have a supply of disposable masks at the entrances to the church for those who wish to wear one during services.
- Please continue to social distance in the marked pews.
- The choir will continue to mask during their hour-long rehearsal, but may choose to remove the mask during the performance of the anthem in worship.
- Out of respect for those who choose or need to continue wearing masks, our practice of passing the peace and sharing communion from our seats, as well as collecting the offering at the entrance to the sanctuary will not change.

We will continue to monitor cases and transmission levels and will relax or strengthen this guidance as health and safety protocols dictate. Thanks to all for their cooperation in keeping our church family healthy and safe.

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US TODAY: first, welcome! Please fill out a blue visitor's card found in the pew rack. If you are interested in being on our email or newsletter mailing lists, provide that information so we can keep in touch. We hope you consider joining us more often!

WE WELCOME BACK TO OUR PULPIT the Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower as guest pastor this morning.

BOOK CLUB MEETS WEEKLY, discussing "The Scrolls from the Dead Sea" by Edmund Wilson, 10AM, Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apessos, 361 Maple Avenue, Edgewood.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY: 7:00PM at https://pitt.zoom.us/j/6670286724 No password is needed. Email Tim Hoffman at HoffmanTL@gmail.com with questions.

RECYCLE BINS are located in the last pew of the sanctuary and blue bin at the side transept entrance for bulletins, cups, (list of what is accepted is posted on bins).

JOIN US FOR UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

April 10 – Palm/Passion Sunday Readers' Theater Service

April 14 – Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service, 7:00PM, Rev. Bob Ruefle preaching

April 17 – Easter Sunday with Communion, Rev. Michael Rucker preaching

April 24 - Second Sunday of Easter, Rev. Kellie Weekley-Mills preaching



A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN SEVEN DAYS.

EASTER FLOWERS

We seek your help in morning. Through yo		, ,	_	uty and meanin	g on Easter
I wish to contribute a		•		Daffodil	Hyacinth
The wording for the b	ulletin is:				
In honor of					
In memory of _					
Order placed by _					
Please check:		d like to take d like it to be	•	Prayer Garden	

The cost of each plant is \$9.00. Please send check (payable to FPCE or pay online at fpcedgewood.org/donate) with form and return it to the Church Office. Deadline is **April 4, 2022.**

CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

AH=Apessos Home, B=Basement Band Room, C=Choir Room, GP=Gathering Place, L=Lounge, O=Office, PS=Pastor's Study, S=Sanctuary, Sc=Scout Room, SL=Side Lawn, SR=Social Room

Monday, April 4

Easter Flower Order Deadline

6:30PM Scouts (Sc/SR)

7:00PM Vocal Confluence (S)

Tuesday, April 5

10:00AM Book Club (AH)

7:00PM Edgewood Symphony Orchestra (S)

Wednesday, April 6

7:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

Thursday, April 7

5:00PM Flute Lesson (L) 7:00PM Milepost6 (B)

Friday, April 8

5:00PM Flute Lesson (L)

8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

Saturday, April 9

8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

Next Sunday, Palm Sunday, April 10

9:30AM Choir Rehearsal (S)

11:00AM Worship (S)

Youth Sunday School (GP)

How can you become involved?

As we reopen, working to rebuild and reimagine the ministries at FPCE, consider if you have a heart for:

- Encouraging our younger members
- Learning more about God & faith
- Praising God through music
- Serving senior citizens
- Working in publicity/advertising

...please contact a member of our FPCE Family listed below for more details on how to become involved!

OUR FPCE FAMILY

Office & Cleaning Manager

Judy Mysels

office@fpcedgewood.org

Building Manager

Rob Mysels

building@fpcedgewood.org

Minister of Music

Shaun Cloonan

music@fpcedgewood.org

Pianist

Sunny Sakai

Sunnysakai4@gmail.com

Ministers

The Entire Congregation



Believing we are called together by God's love through Jesus Christ, our mission as the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood is to love God, to love each other, and to love our neighbors.