



Sisterhood, Catie Atinson

CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY

LEADING WITH LOVE

MARCH 4, 2018

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 4, 2018

10:30 a.m.

* All who are able may stand

Congregation reads aloud the **bold** print

THE TIME OF CENTERING

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GATHERS

PRELUDE

Hard Trials

African-American spiritual,

Betty Shirar, soprano

Craig Hella Johnson

Been lis'nin all de night long, been lis'nin' all de day. Been lis'nin all de night long, for to hear some sinner pray.

Now ain't dem hard trials, great tribulation; ain't dem hard trials, I'm bout' to leave dis lan'.

O, de foxes, dey have holes in de groun', an' de birds have nests in de air,
an' everybody has a hidden' place, but us poor sinners ain't got nowhere.

Now ain't dem hard trials, great tribulation; ain't dem hard trials, I'm bout' to leave dis lan'.

O the day dey had her on the auction block, she's been poked and pushed and tried,
was de day her heart completely broke, was de day her heart done died.

Now ain't dem hard trials, great tribulation; ain't dem hard trials, I'm bout' to leave dis lan'.

You may go dis-away, you may go dat-away, you may go from door to door,
but if you ain't got de good Lord in-a yo' soul, why de trouble's gonna find you sho',
and de devil's gonna trouble yo' door, and there ain't no hidin' place.

Now ain't dem hard trials, great tribulation; ain't dem hard trials, I'm bout' to leave dis lan'.

WELCOME

Rev. Kathie S. Pownall

SILENCE AS THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship God, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

We gather to worship God, for God has called us, God's own people, and has given us gifts to be a faithful people.

We remember that God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let us now offer worthy worship to God,

Whose steadfast love endures forever.

*HYMN NO. 20

All Things Bright and Beautiful

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving and merciful God, you have searched us and known us and still you love us. We confess that we take this love and mercy for granted; we are careless with our gifts and resources, and we refuse to focus on you and your will for all creation. You call us to lead with love, but we are reluctant leaders, or we lead with only rules and efficiency in mind. Grant us, O God, caring hearts, attentive minds and renewed commitment to follow you and to help lead others to you. In the saving grace of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

(Time of silent personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The psalmist reminds us that God wants to gather us in like a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings. Under the wings of God's love, we can let go of sin and guilt. We can abide in the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. Friends, in Christ we are forgiven and loved.

Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE (all sing)

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

NO. 839

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story; this is my song; praising my Savior all the day long.**

Text: Fanny Crosby

*GREETING OF PEACE

Since God has made peace with us, let us make peace with each other.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you. (We greet each other: "The peace of Christ be with you.")

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Christina Pressley

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we prepare to hear your word to us, quiet other voices that would draw us away from attentive listening and faithful responding. Grant us new understanding and insights to help us follow you more faithfully. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Leviticus 19:24

Acts 16:11-15

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Hospitality and Building Consensus

Rev. Kathie S. Pownall

*HYMN NO. 7

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Communion Liturgy by Rev. Rebecca Harrison

Sung to *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Choir: God has called us all together: Come to eat and drink as one.
Bread and cup are ours forever, giv'n to us through Christ the Son.

**Congregation: We, your people, stand before you, asking for our daily bread.
Loving God, we do adore you; may our spirits now be fed.**

Choir: God, in Christ you give salvation, and you set your people free.
So we offer celebration; yours, O God, the victory.
Christ, Redeemer, reigns eternal, triumphed over death and sin.
So our hearts are open to you; Holy Spirit, enter in.

God, we pray for all your people living in the world around:
Those who suffer pain and sorrow, those whose troubles weigh
them down,
Those who live in need of healing; help us share your living Word.
May we be your love to others, bringing them the risen Lord.

**Congregation: God, Creator, up in heaven: glory to you, Holy One.
May you reign in power o'er us, may your will on earth be done.
For this day, and each day after, give us what we need to live.
For our sins, O God, forgive us; others' sins help us forgive.**

(cont'd)

**And the kingdom, and the power, and the glory evermore
Be to you, O God who loves us, and to Christ, whom we adore.
In this bread, we find your body; in the cup, your blood outpoured.
We receive the gifts you offer; give you thanks, O blessed Lord.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(The elements of bread or gluten-free crackers and unfermented juice will be served today in the front of the Sanctuary. Please leave your pew by the center aisle and return via the side aisles.)

COMMUNION HYMN (all sing)

I Am the Bread of Life

NO. 522

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, gracious God, for this meal which you have given us. As we gather around our own tables in the days ahead, might we be reminded of this table, where all are welcome and love always is the answer to hate. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*This morning we receive the offering for the Deacons' Fund. Your contributions provide immediate help to individuals in our community in financial crisis – real people, real needs, real help.
Any loose offering and designated checks go toward this fund. Let us give with grateful hearts.*

OFFERTORY

"Lift Thine Eyes" (Elijah)

F. Mendelssohn

Altum Concordia (High Harmony)

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help.

Thy help cometh from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

She hath said, thy foot shall not be moved. Thy keeper will never slumber.

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help.

*DOXOLOGY (all sing)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

NO. 607

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Not tomorrow, but today we are offered the chance to become a part of your healing work, of bringing peace to a broken world, of feeding the hungry, and welcoming the excluded. Today, not tomorrow, we offer our gifts as well as our lives to this ministry of blessing and hope. Amen.

*HYMN

God of the Women

(Tune: NO. 450 *Be Thou My Vision*)

**God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —
Give us their courage to live in your truth.
God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —
May we give freely as they did before.
God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.
God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —
May we so gladly proclaim you today.
O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.**

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*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Welcome visitors! We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please record your name, address, and phone number/email on one of the Connection Cards in the pew and introduce yourself to the pastor as you leave. All are invited to join us for light refreshments and fellowship following the service in the back of the Sanctuary.

Large-print bulletins, hymnals, and Bibles are available for use during the worship service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Assisting in the service of worship are:

Liturgist: Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

Deacon-in-Charge: Al Lund

Ushers: The Janas Family

Communion: Rita Anderson, Gail Greene

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Kay & Alan Jewett in memory of Alan’s parents Mel & Janet Jewett and Kay’s father Paul Lynam.

Weekly Prayer List:

Alice Klippel Margot & Stan Lamar
The Kroon Family Anna Mae Landt

Pastoral Care: **The Rev. Kathie Pownall** is currently providing pastoral care for our Concord family and would love to visit anyone – not just in times of emergency. If you would like a visit, call her at 302/373-7127 or email kspownallkathie@aol.com to set up a convenient time.

Whether you are a visitor, occasional attendee, or current/former/prospective member, **you can stay connected to the people, plans, and possibilities of Concord by subscribing to our weekly *Concord Connects* e-newsletter.** Just write a note on a Connection Card, along with your name and email address.

Church Office closed Friday & Monday, March 9 & 12.

Sunday School & Family Activities

Family Potluck – today after worship,



Fellowship Hall: Please join us for an informal potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall with Pastor Elizabeth to talk about **what would make your experience at church a**

deeper and richer one – for both you and your children. This gathering is for ALL families who participate in worship and activities at Concord, whether they are members or not. **We want to hear from everyone!** A video or activity will be provided for children and youth while the adults talk. The conversation will last about an hour.

***Chili/Soup Cook-off
&***

Chocolate Challenge

Sunday, March 11

**following Gospel Sunday worship
in Fellowship Hall**

Enjoy a delicious lunch and decadent desserts while supporting our youth.

Want to just eat? Simply show up!

Ready to compete for the coveted crown?

Fill out an entry form for either the Cook-off or Challenge and place in the Church Office mailbox with your \$5 fee by March 5.



[Forms available on the back of bulletin insert.]

Concord Courier
March 2018



"Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord!"
Mark 11:9

*The March issue of The
Courier is now available on
the website and in the
Narthex. There's a lot going
on here at Concord – don't
miss a thing!*



GOSPEL SUNDAY

March 11

10:30am worship

w/ Chancel Choir,
**Contemporary Ensemble &
Guest Soloist Maria Hess**

Our annual celebration of gospel music welcomes guest soloist Maria Hess, who specializes in gospel singing.

We'll feature the settings of Rolo Dilworth, standards of the gospel repertoire that are new to us, plus a few hymns and responses straight from the Presbyterian Hymnal *Glory to God*.

Adult Education

Creed: What Christians Believe and Why – Suns., through April 15, 9:30am in Jessie's Room: This six-week DVD series by Adam Hamilton looks at the *Apostles' Creed*, an historic statement of foundational Christian faith. Come join the discussion.

Faith in Literature – Our next meeting will be **Monday, March 19, 1:00pm**, at the home of Joyce Johnson. Please read: "Ivy Day in the Committee Room" by James Joyce and "The Chrysanthemums" by John Steinbeck.

CALENDAR

Sun., March 4 Kathie Pownall preaching

Lent III – Communion, Deacons' Fund

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

No Children/Youth Sunday School

11:45am Family Potluck-Fellowship Hall

5:00pm Lenten Dinner/Bible Study (JR)

Mon., March 5 FH Breakfast Delivery

9:00am Diaspora Prayer

1:00pm Mary Circle (Susan Hofmann)

6:30pm Mission Initiative (Jessie's Room)

Tues., March 6 EDR South

Wed., March 7 Preschool Book Fair

9:30am Mug & Muffin (Sanct. Lounge)

7:00pm Deacons – Jessie's Room

Thurs., March 8

11:30am Thaddeus Arc Men's – Library

7:30pm Chancel Choir (Chapel)

Fri. & Mon., March 9 & 12 Office closed

Sun., March 11 Gospel Sunday

Soup/Chili Cook-off & Chocolate Challenge

9:30am Adult CE – Jessie's Room

9:45am Concord Book Club (SL)

10:00am Youth Choir/Bells (F204)

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

10:50am Children/Youth Sunday School

11:45am Cook-off/Challenge – FH

5:00pm Lenten Dinner/Bible Study (JR)

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