

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 31, 2019

10:30 a.m.

* All who are able may stand

Congregation reads aloud the **bold print**

THE TIME OF CENTERING

*This is the now, this flickering, broken light,
this air that the wind of the future presses
down my throat, pumping me buoyant and
giddy with praise.*

~ Annie Dillard

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GATHERS

PRELUDE

Beneath the Cross of Jesus
Jeffrey DeVault, organ

Mark Hayes

OPENING SCRIPTURE

WELCOME

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lightening the Load

by Francis Dorff, O. Praem

The first thing we have to do
is to notice
that we've loaded down this camel
with so much baggage
we'll never get through the desert alive.

**Something has to go.
Then we can begin to dump
the thousand things
we've brought along
until even the camel has to go
and we're walking barefoot
on the desert sand.**

(cont'd)

There's no telling what will happen then.
But I've heard that someone,
walking in this way,
has seen a burning bush.
Come, let us worship the Lord.

*HYMN NO. 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

from Psalm 6

Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—
you get a fresh start,
your slate's wiped clean.

**Count yourself lucky—
God holds nothing against you
and you're holding nothing back from him.**

When I kept it all inside,
my bones turned to powder,
my words became daylong groans.

**The pressure never let up;
all the juices of my life dried up.**

Then I let it all out;
I said, "I'll make a clean breast of my failures to God."

Suddenly the pressure was gone—
my guilt dissolved,
my sin disappeared.

**These things add up. Every one of us needs to pray;
when all hell breaks loose and the dam bursts
we'll be on high ground, untouched.**

A Time of Silence

(Please take this time in silence to offer your own prayers of confession – confessing your need for God and naming those barriers that keep you from knowing life as God's beloved child.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's my island hideaway,
keeps danger far from the shore,
throws garlands of hosannas around my neck.

Celebrate God.

Sing together – everyone!

All you honest hearts, raise the roof! Amen

*RESPONSE (all sing)

Change My Heart, O God

NO. 695

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.**

*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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (*The Message*)

p. 940

Azael's Recitative and Aria (from *L'Enfant Prodigue*)

C. Debussy

Matthew Pressley, tenor

*Azael returns to his home after squandering his inheritance seeking the world's pleasures.
Tentatively watching his family from a distance, he regrets his choices and wonders why he ever left...*

These happy tunes, these festive songs, which the morning wind brings me in fragments,
Oppress my heart, trouble my mind... They are happy!... Here, under the swaying branches,
I watch them in their gaiety, so gentle: They exchange words filled with tenderness...
There is my brother! And there my sister! I hold my breath that I might hear them...
They are happy!

Oh, days gone by forever, when my soul was as pure as theirs!
When this serene nature gave strength to my tired body!
When, close to my mother, overjoyed to press my head upon her heart,
I knew nothing of life but innocence and happiness!

(cont'd)

Ah! By what bitter folly has my soul, surprised and overcome, forced me to forsake that place?

Throughout the night, over rocks, through dust, I slowly crossed the perilous paths...

Oh, days gone by forever, when my soul was as pure as theirs!

When, close to my mother, overjoyed to press my head upon her heart,

I knew nothing of life but innocence and happiness!

Luke 15:11-32

p. 850

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Lost and Found

Elizabeth Lyman

*HYMN NO. 173

A Woman and a Coin

JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER (choir only)

Cast Thy Burden (*Elijah*)

F. Mendelssohn

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER ("forgive us our *debts* as we forgive our *debtors*")

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Verleih uns Frieden* (Lord, in thy mercy grant us peace) F. Mendelssohn
Chancel Choir

Lord, in thy mercy grant us peace, throughout all generations;
Thou art alone our sword and shield, Lord who dost guide the nations.
Defend us, O God, we pray thee.

*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

Gracious and Loving God, we give thanks for the invitation to return home to you and the gracious welcome we have received! Our hearts are full of gratitude for your loving embrace and the truth that we are your beloved children. May you receive our humble offering as a sign of our gratitude and commitment to sharing your love among a world in need. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

American spiritual

American spiritual

1. Je - sus walked this lone-some val - ley, He had to
2. We must walk this lone-some val - ley, We have to
3. You must go and stand your tri - al, You have to

walk it by Him - self; O, no-bod-y else could walk it
walk it by our - selves; O, no-bod-y else can walk it
stand it by your - self, O, no-bod-y else can stand it

for Him, He had to walk it by Him - self.
for us, We have to walk it by our - selves.
for you, You have to stand it by your - self.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in C minor
Jeffrey DeVault, organ

J. S. Bach

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 after church in the back of the Sanctuary.*

Assisting in the service of worship are:

Deacon-in-Charge: Dick Carter

Liturgist: Jim Silvius

Ushers: Kay & Alan Jewett

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Carol Welch in gratitude for the music at Concord.

Weekly Prayer List (follows directory):

Duane Jessup

Pat Armbruster

Lori Bigalow

Jeffrey DeVault

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

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 crisis. Contact her at 373-7127 or kspownallkathie@aol.com.

Concord now accepts donations via several electronic methods:

- Scanning the QR code with your smart phone will connect you with a Concord website page to allow **credit card** donations.
- Use **PayPal** to send donation to Concord at donations@concordpc.org.
- Use your personal **banking app** (utilizing Zelle®) to send a cash donation to donations@concordpc.org.



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, and place it in the offering.



Come visit us on Facebook... for photos, announcements, events, and engaging questions. If something catches your eye or touches your heart, “like” it or share it with friends.

Unable to make it to a worship service? Recordings of current sermons are available online at <https://concordpc.org/worship/sermons/>.





John, The Gospel of Light & Life – Suns. through April 14, 9:30am in Jessie's Room: Join us for this Lenten DVD series by Adam Hamilton and experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal.

Concord Book Club – Sundays, 9:45-10:25am, Sanctuary Lounge: Now reading *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordon.

No Adult Classes on Easter – April 21.

You are invited to attend our Bible Study groups which discuss the background of the scripture for each Sunday's sermon:

- **Mug & Muffin Bible Study** – Weds. @ 9:30am in the Sanctuary Lounge. *Will not meet April 17.*
- **Thaddeus Arc Men's Bible Study** –Thurs. @ 11:30am in the Library.

Faith in Literature – Our next meeting will be **Monday, April 15, 1:00pm**, at the home of Joyce Johnson (655-3411). We are reading *Our Kids: the American Dream in Crisis*, a new book by Robert Putnam. Please read through Chapter 6 – "What Is to Be Done."

Women's Evening Bible Study meets the fourth Tuesday of each month @ **7:00pm in Jessie's Room.** Our next meeting will be **April 30.** We will finish reading & discussing *Peaceful Neighbor: Discovering the Counter-Cultural Mr. Rogers* and continue our study from the Gospel of Luke. *Please note date change.*

Sunday School & Family Activities

Youth Group Christina River Watershed Clean-up – Sat., April 6, 9:15-11:15am:

We'll meet in the Concord Church parking lot, then head to the Riverfront together. We'll leave the Riverfront at 11:00am for pick up at the church at 11:15am. Parents and younger siblings (with a parent) welcome to! Please RSVP by Wed., April 3.



Sunday School Schedule:

- **April 7:** Sunday School after Children's Sermon (no communion).
- **April 14 – Palm Sunday:** No Sunday School. Children participate in worship with procession of palms, communion, quiet activities provided.
- **April 21 – Easter:** No Sunday School. Children participate in worship. Communion, quiet activities provided. (Pancake Breakfast before worship in Fellowship Hall, Easter Egg Hunt following worship outdoors.)



All are invited to join us for a

**Pancake Breakfast
Easter Sunday, April 21**

8:45 – 10:00am

Sponsored by Spiritual Formation.
Proceeds benefit Middle School Conference trip.

Mission

Ahoy! Mark Your Calendars: Join us on **Sat., April 27, 9:00am-noon**, for a trip to the Wilmington Seamen's Center. We'll pull weeds, plant flowers, and do general spring cleanup. You must sign up in advance and bring a photo ID for security clearance. To volunteer, contact Liz Rowe rowe3.mail@gmail.com by April 24.



Northern New Castle Presbytery 6K for Water:

On May 4, World Vision is hosting a global 6K to raise funds to provide access to clean water to people in developing countries. The local walk will be held in Elsmere. The registration is \$50 per adult and \$25 per youth. Javy Diaz, a spokesperson for World Vision, will worship with us April 7 and provide more information about this important outreach.



In Remembrance of Wesley Lund

Wesley passed away peacefully March 18, surrounded by his family and the prayers of all those who loved him. A celebration of Wesley's life will be held at Concord on **Sat., April 6 at 2:00pm**, with a reception to follow. Click [here](#) to view Wesley's online obituary.

Flower Guild

Easter Decorating Dates:

- **Fri., April 12, 9:30am**—strip palms for Palm Sunday
- **Fri., April 19, 9:30am**—Decorate Sanctuary for Easter

All are welcome – many hands make light work.

A Time to Remember: Every Easter, the Flower Guild fills the Sanctuary with lilies and spring flowers donated by those wishing to honor or remember a loved one. If you would like to contribute a flower, make your check for \$15 payable to Concord, memo: "Easter flowers." Please include a note as to how the bulletin dedication should read and drop the check in the offering.



APRIL



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

CONCORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

**You Shall Be Called
Repairers of the Breach**

— ISAIAH 58

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)

During Lent, as we intentionally focus on aligning our lives with God's calling for us, One Great Hour of Sharing provides an opportunity to become, as Isaiah proclaims, repairers of the breach. For 70 years, Presbyterians have joined together in this ecumenical effort to share God's love through ministries that provide relief to those affected by disaster, food for the hungry, and support toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.



32% Restoring Hope (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)

Working alongside communities as they recover and find hope after natural or human caused disasters.



36% Reducing Hunger (Presbyterian Hunger Program)

Supporting initiatives that create sustainable food systems and alleviate root causes of poverty so that all may be fed.



32% Partnering in Progress (Self-Development of People)

Providing resources and education to oppressed and disadvantaged communities working to overcome poverty and injustice through initiatives they own and directly benefit from.

Envelopes are available in the pew. Make checks payable to Concord Church, memo: OGHS.

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 31

Lent VI

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman preaching

10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary
10:50 am Children/Youth Sunday School
11:45 am Pastor Nominating Committee – Jessie’s Room
11:45 am Worship & Music – Sanctuary Lounge

Monday, April 1

Friendship House Breakfast Closet Delivery

Preschool Book Fair

9:00 am Diaspora Prayer Group
1:00 pm Mary Circle – Peggy Carter
7:00 pm Covenant Bible Study – Jessie’s Room

Tuesday, April 2

Preschool Book Fair

9:30 am Emmanuel Dining Room South

Wednesday, April 3

9:30 am Mug & Muffin Bible Study – Sanctuary Lounge (w/ Edee Fenimore)
7:00 pm Joint Board – Jessie’s Room
7:30 pm Deacons – Sanctuary Lounge; Session – Jessie’s Room

Thursday, April 4

11:30 am Thaddeus Arc Men’s Bible Study – Library
7:30 pm Chancel Choir – Chapel

Saturday, April 6

7:00 am Covenant Bible Study – Jessie’s Room
9:15 am Youth Group – Christina River Watershed Cleanup
2:00 pm Memorial Service & Reception – Wesley Lund (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, April 7

Lent V

Rev. Edee Fenimore preaching

9:30 am Adult CE – Jessie’s Room
9:45 am Book Club – Sanctuary Lounge
10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary
10:50 am Children/Youth Sunday School
11:45 am Pastor Nominating Committee – Jessie’s Room

Monday, April 8

9:00 am Diaspora Prayer Group
1:00 pm Prayer Shawls – Sanctuary Lounge
7:00 pm Covenant Bible Study – Jessie’s Room

Mark Your Calendars:

- **Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14, 10:30am** – Procession of Palms, Communion
- **Thursday, April 18, 7:00pm** – Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service w/ Communion
- **Good Friday, April 19, noon @ Trinity Presbyterian Church** -- Biblical Stations of the Cross
- **Easter Sunday, April 21** – Sunrise Service @ Trinity (7:00am); Pancake Breakfast (8:45am); Worship with communion, brass, timpani, & Processional Re-Dressing of the Chancel (10:30am); Easter Egg Hunt following worship