

First They Came

Pastor Martin Niemöller*

First, they came for the Communists

*And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist*

Then they came for the Socialists

*And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist*

Then they came for the trade unionists

*And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist*

Then they came for the Jews

*And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew*

Then they came for me

*And there was no one left
To speak out for me.*

*Martin Niemöller is best known for writing *First They Came*, but he is a complicated figure. Initially an antisemitic Nazi supporter, his views changed when he was imprisoned in a concentration camp for speaking out against Nazi control of churches.

CONCORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 23, 2025

10:00 a.m.

* All who are able may stand

Congregation reads aloud the **BOLD** print

PRELUDE

In Death's Strong Grasp the Savior Lay
Sue Fuhrman – organ

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric Markman (he/him)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Marj Johnson (she/her)

One: Jesus traveled throughout his life with groups of people who followed him and helped him in his preaching of the Good News of the glory that God was preparing a heavenly home for his family.

ALL: IN THE BONDS OF FAITHFUL PEOPLE, CHRIST HAS SPREAD THE GOSPEL HERE. THAT THE BELLS FROM EVERY STEEPLE RING WITH JOY SO DO NOT FEAR.

One: Jesus told his disciples to take up their cross and follow him.

ALL: HELP US TO CARRY OUT THE TASKS YOU HAVE GIVEN US, O LORD, CONFIDENTLY SHARING THE GLORIOUS MESSAGE OF YOUR SUFFERING, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION TO COMMUNITIES NEAR AND FAR.

*HYMN NO. 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: GRACIOUS GOD, OUR SINS ARE TOO HEAVY TO CARRY, TOO REAL TO HIDE, AND TOO DEEP TO UNDO. FORGIVE WHAT OUR LIPS TREMBLE TO NAME, WHAT OUR HEARTS CAN NO LONGER BEAR, AND WHAT HAS BECOME FOR US A CONSUMING FIRE OF JUDGMENT.

SET US FREE FROM A PAST THAT WE CANNOT CHANGE; OPEN TO US A FUTURE IN WHICH WE CAN BE CHANGED; AND GRANT US GRACE TO GROW MORE AND MORE IN YOUR LIKENESS AND IMAGE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

[Time of silent prayer]

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

ALL: AMEN.

**GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY GHOST;
AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE,
WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN, AMEN**

***SHARING THE PEACE**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

ALL: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

[Turn to those around you and share with them words and signs of peace.]

WONDERING TIME

Pastor Eric

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ALL: O LORD OUR GOD, YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO OUR FEET AND A LIGHT TO OUR PATH. GIVE US GRACE TO RECEIVE YOUR TRUTH IN FAITH AND LOVE, THAT WE MAY BE OBEDIENT TO YOUR WILL AND LIVE ALWAYS FOR YOUR GLORY; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:1-9 (NRSV)

SERMON

"Repent"

Pastor Eric Markman (he/him)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** 1 Cor. 15:1-6; Mark 16:9 (16:1-9); Matt. 16:16; Rev. 22:13; John 20:28

ALL: THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED, IN WHICH WE STAND, AND BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED, IF WE HOLD IT FAST: THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, THAT HE WAS BURIED, THAT HE WAS RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY, AND THAT HE APPEARED FIRST TO THE WOMEN, THEN TO PETER, AND TO THE TWELVE, AND THEN TO MANY FAITHFUL WITNESSES.

WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD. JESUS CHRIST IS THE FIRST AND THE LAST, THE BEGINNING AND THE END; HE IS OUR LORD AND OUR GOD. AMEN.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
Sue Fuhrmann – organ

Max Reger

*DOXOLOGY (all sing) **PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW;** Tune: NO. 606
PRAISE CHRIST, ALL PEOPLE HERE BELOW;
PRAISE HOLY SPIRIT EVERMORE;
PRAISE TRIUNE GOD, WHOM WE ADORE. AMEN

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN NO. 441 *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Our Father in Heaven* Marcel Dupré
Sue Fuhrmann – organ

Welcome visitors! We're glad you're here today. If you'd like to learn more about what's happening at Concord, how you can get involved, or how we can help or support you, fill out one of the Connection Cards in the pew with your contact information. You can place the card in the offering or give it to a greeter as you leave. The peace of Christ be with you.

Today we are pleased to welcome guest organist Sue Fuhrmann. Sue began playing the organ in eighth grade and studied it through high school. As a Methodist preacher's daughter, she began playing for church services early on and had full-time organist jobs through college. Her professional career has been in education, but she has been active for years as a substitute in New Castle and Cecil Counties in a variety of denominations.

Assisting in the service of worship are:

Deacon-in-Charge: Jim Silvius

Liturgist: Marj Johnson

Greeter: Marci Jorgensen

Livestream Team: Bob Brown, Dottie Harding, A.T. Moffett, Nancy Tucker

J.A.M. Session



(Jesus and Me!)

After Wondering Time, children in grades K-5 are invited to follow the J.A.M. leaders to the Sunday School hallway where they are led through activities and crafts provided in the PC(USA) lectionary curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*, that are in response to the scripture shared during the service.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

By action of the Session of Concord Presbyterian Church, there will be a **meeting of the congregation Sunday, April 6** immediately following worship to elect 2025 congregation at-large members to the Nominating Committee (Terri Jones, Ryan Moffett, Carly Twilley).

HIGHMARK.



WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

WALK WITH US!

Walk to benefit Friendship House

Saturday, May 3

Wilmington Riverfront

Registration now open – [click here](#) to join or support the Concord Team!

[Concord's team is "Concord Cares" - Christina Pressley, captain.]

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

TOILET PAPER DRIVE

At its many sites, Friendship House goes through a LOT of toilet paper. Concord is holding a toilet paper drive for them during the month of March. Please bring whatever you are able to donate and put it on the right side of the narthex as you enter.

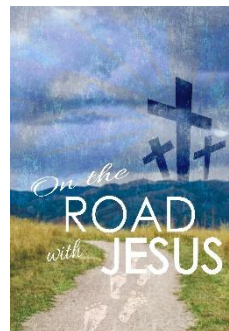
We hope to build a huge "snowman" there. At the end of March, we will deliver it to Friendship House. Thank you!



“On the Road with Jesus!” Lent - 2025

Here is the Lenten series: [“On the Road with Jesus.”](#) To fully enjoy it you should find each scripture lesson in the Bible, read it, and then read the short commentary for that week. After the commentary there is a prayer. After the prayer there is a link to a piece of music that reflects that scripture for that week. Please enjoy this series, and I hope it helps you on your journey with Jesus during Lent.

Peace, Pastor Eric



HABITAT BUILD 2025

Concord Church and Preschool and the Fairfax community are putting a team together for a Habitat Build day, and **WE NEED YOU!**

- **WHEN:** Saturday, April 5, 8:00am – 3:00pm
- **WHERE:** We will meet at the Habitat headquarters at 1920 Hutton Street, Wilmington, DE 19802 at 8:00am
- **WHO:** Anyone 16 years of age or older. Lunch will be provided but bring water to drink during the day. Wear work clothes and sturdy shoes.
- **WHY:** To transform people's lives and our neighborhoods.
- **HOW:** Click on the link below to sign up and fill out the Habitat questionnaire required to participate. Do this now and put the date on your calendar so we know we have a team ready to go. You will get an email closer to the date with all the details about that day and the site we will be at.

https://habitat-for-humanity-of-new-castle.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=59470&job_name=concord%20presbyterian%20church