

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2025

10:00 a.m.

* All who are able may stand

Congregation reads aloud the **BOLD** print

PRELUDE Recit et Air de Lia (from *L'Enfant Prodigue* – “*The Prodigal Son*”) C. Debussy
Sujung Wang – soprano, Sinae Yun Lee – piano

*Azaël, the prodigal son, has been absent from the family for several years without word.
Lia, his mother, laments his departure and longs for his return.*

Year follows upon empty year! With each returning season,
their sports and revels sadden me despite myself:

They reopen my wound and my grief increases. I come to visit this solitary shore.
Involuntary pain! Useless efforts! Lia forever grieves the child she has no more!

Azael, Azael, why did you leave me?
Your image lives on in my maternal heart.
Azael! Azael! Why did you leave me?

Yet the evenings were sweet in the meadow with its elm trees, when, laden with the harvest,
The great russet oxen were brought home. When the task was done, children, old folk and
servants, field workers and shepherds would praise the blessed hand of God.

Thus day followed day, and in the pious family,
youths and maidens would exchange their innocent love.

Others do not feel the weight of old age; Happy with their children,
they watch the years go by without regret or sadness...
How heavily time lies on an unconsolated heart!

Azael! Azael! Why did you leave me?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric Markman (he/him)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jan Moore (she/her)

One: As we draw closer to Jerusalem and Jesus' time of trial, let us fully awaken
that we might hear the message that he has for us this day.

**ALL: WE WILL FOLLOW OUR SAVIOR EVEN INTO THE DARK MOMENTS THAT ARE
AHEAD.**

One: Even as he looks at what looms before him, he still speaks of a love that will
not let us go!

**ALL: WE LIFT OUR VOICES TO THE ONE WHO LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US, AND WE
REJOICE THAT HE HAS CALLED US TO BE PEOPLE OF COMPASSION AND CARE!
LET US WORSHIP THE ONE WHO HAS LED GENERATIONS BEFORE US AND LEADS
US TODAY!**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: O GOD, YOU HAVE SET BEFORE US OUR GREED, OUR HATRED AND SELF-HATRED, OUR FEAR AND OUR APATHY. YOU HAVE ALSO SHOWN US THE INJUSTICE AND TYRANNIES OF OUR PUBLIC LIFE.

WE HAVE SUCCUMBED TO PARALYZING ANXIETY IN RESPONSE TO INJUSTICE. WE HAVE RESISTED THE PROMPTING OF YOUR SPIRIT WHO NUDGES US OUT OF SELF-ABSORPTION.

EMPOWER US BY YOUR SPIRIT TO BE ATTENTIVE AND DISCERNING PARTNERS IN HEALING YOUR CREATION.

[Time of silent prayer]

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God's healing mercy abounds. God's grace goes before us, after us, through us — sometimes even unbeknownst to us. Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: We are forgiven and restored to right paths of justice and shalom.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!

*RESPONSE (all sing)

Hear the Good News of Salvation

NO. 441, v. 2

ALL THE SINS I HAVE COMMITTED, TO MY SAVIOR NOW I BRING.

I BOW DOWN WITH TEARS OF ANGUISH; CHRIST FORGIVES AND SO I SING:

JESUS CHRIST, HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU! JESUS CHRIST, YOU SAVE FROM SIN!

HOW I LOVE YOU! LOOK UPON ME. LOVE ME STILL AND CLEANSE WITHIN.

*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

Christina Pressley (she/her)

[Following Wondering Time, children & youth leave to attend J.A.M. or Sunday Seekers.]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ALL: POUR OUT YOUR SPIRIT TO US TO OPEN OUR HEARTS, SO THAT WE MAY DISCERN YOUR WORD IN AND THROUGH THE WORDS THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO HEAR. SHOW US YOUR WAY IN CHRIST. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (NRSV)

One: This is the word of our Lord.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

SERMON

"Complications"

Pastor Eric Markman (he/him)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Declaration of Faith*

ALL: WE BELIEVE CHRIST GIVES US AND DEMANDS OF US PERSONAL LIVES THAT ARE CENTERED IN GOD AND OPEN TO GOD'S REALITY AND RULE.

CHRIST TEACHES US TO PUT OBEDIENCE TO GOD ABOVE THE INTERESTS OF SELF, FAMILY, RACE, OR NATION; TO OFFER GOD JOYOUSLY OUR MONEY, ABILITY, AND TIME.

IT IS PART OF OUR DAILY DISCIPLINE TO OBSERVE A DAY OF WORSHIP AND REST, SETTING ASIDE OUR OWN WORKING TO ENJOY GOD'S WORK, CELEBRATING WITH SISTERS AND BROTHERS THE LORD'S GOODNESS.

WE NEED CONSTANTLY TO SEARCH OUT GOD'S WAY IN SCRIPTURE, NOT EXPECTING DETAILED DIRECTIONS FOR EVERY DECISION, BUT RELYING ON THE WORD TO TELL US WHO GOD IS, TO PRESS GOD'S PRESENT CLAIM ON US, AND TO ASSURE US OF GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT.

WE ARE CHARGED TO PRAY FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS WITH GRATITUDE, BOLDNESS, AND PERSISTENCE, CONFIDENT THAT GOD HEARS AND ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS IN WAYS BEST FOR US ALL.

LIFE IN GOD'S PRESENCE ISSUES IN LIFE FOR OTHERS, FOR IF WE DO NOT LOVE SISTERS AND BROTHERS WHOM WE SEE, WE CANNOT LOVE GOD WHOM WE DO NOT SEE.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

arr. Tom Shelton

Chancel Choir, Jenny Godowsky – alto saxophone, Sujung Wang – soprano

Solo: Talk about a child that do love Jesus, here's one.

Ever since I heard the gospel story, I been walkin' up the road to glory.

Choir: I want Jesus to walk with me. All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

*RESPONSE (all sing) *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* NO. 649, v. 1

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND, THAT SAVED A WRETCH LIKE ME!

I ONCE WAS LOST, BUT NOW AM FOUND, WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN NO. 645 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE (choir only) *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* Spiritual
Chancel Choir

In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

POSTLUDE *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* arr. Mark Hayes
Sinae Yun Lee – piano

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's music: *L'Enfant Prodigue* (The Prodigal Son) is a short one-act cantata or *scène lyrique* that dramatizes aspects of the parable in Luke 15. At just 22 years of age, Claude Debussy's work earned him 1st prize in the Prix de Rome competition, one of Europe's most prestigious awards for student composers. To improve his chances with his third try at the prize, Debussy deliberately employed more conservative idioms than those he was actually developing. The competition also required any submitted works be composed within a three-week span; Debussy was not particularly fond of the result. Though he would later make revisions and additions to the work, *Lia's Aria* heard in today's service remains in its original form.

CONCORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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The Rev. Eric Markman, Pastor (603) 770-3239 pastoreric@concordpc.org

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Chloe & Ron McKinney in memory of Chloe's parents Cleo & Harry Polk.

Assisting in the service of worship are:

Deacon-in-Charge: Ryan Moffett

Liturgist: Jan Moore

Livestream Team: Bob Brown, A.T. Moffett, Melanie Slezak, 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!

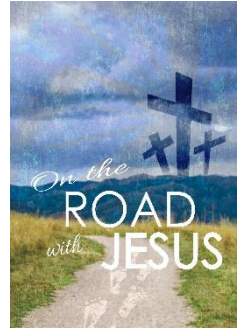
**Walk to benefit Friendship House
Saturday, May 3
Wilmington Riverfront**

Registration now open – [click here](#) to join or support the Concord Team!
[Concord's team is "Concord Cares" - Christina Pressley, captain.]

“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