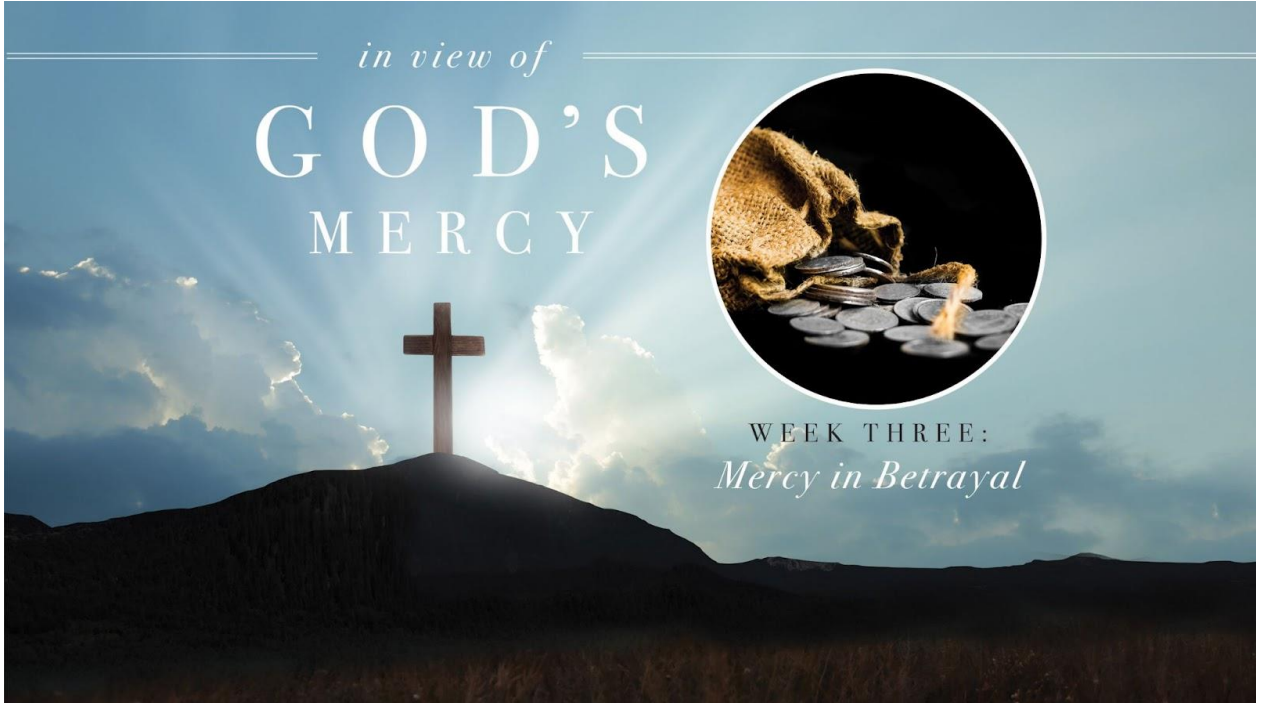


First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)

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Lent 3 Evening Worship with Communion

March 23, 2022

7:00 PM

The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor

Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org

828.448.8914

As we gather. . . . In this service for Week 3 of Lent in our In View of God's Mercy series, we look at our lives through the lens of God's love toward us in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. In this service, we ponder the truth that though we may turn away from our God again and again, our Lord continues to call us back into his merciful arms for Jesus' sake.

Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.

- 1 Peter 3:9

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This

WALKER'S SOUTHERN HARMONY, Arr. John Carter

Justin Streletz, Pianist

WELCOME

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

We are blessed to be a blessing.

The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

We are blessed to be a blessing.

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

We are blessed to be a blessing.

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

We are blessed to be a blessing.

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

We are blessed to be a blessing.

Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

We are blessed to be a blessing.

The Lord redeems the life of his servants.

We are blessed to be a blessing.

None of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Thanks be to God!

+ HYMN

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

415

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and eternal God, you call us into a new way of being, and give us so many second chances in life. May your love wash over us, as we turn toward you from our sinful ways. Mold us as your people in new and powerful ways, that we may be true disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this:

While we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,

So that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion,

Let us confess our sin before God and one another, praying together. . .

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we acknowledge that we have betrayed you. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not kept our tongues from evil, especially when slandering others. We have not sought peace with others, but have pursued sinful revenge. Forgive our transgressions. Bring reconciliation and restoration to our relationship with you and our relationships with others.

We cry to you for mercy!

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

551

**Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(1 Peter 3:12)*

Hear the good news! God's Word declares that "the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer." In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you to remove the guilt of your sin. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sin and gives you his righteousness, making you righteous in his sight. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

Hearing this good news, know that we are forgiven, and be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of all Wisdom,
we desire to be reconciled to your will in our world.
Remove any obstacles before us
that would keep us from understanding your Word.
On this Lenten journey, guide our footsteps
that we might follow the path of Christ to the cross.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jonah 3:1-10 NRSV

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

⁶When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.”

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 26:47-56 NRSV

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." ⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" ⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SILENT MEDITATION

+ HYMN OF RESPONSE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

435

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Instructions: If you haven't already picked up an individual prefilled communion cup as you entered the sanctuary, you are invited to come forward, by way of the center aisle, to receive the elements when an usher indicates. Gluten-free prefilled communion cups are located in the center of the tray. Please take the elements back to your seat by way of the outside aisles.

Please hold the elements until all are served. When directed by the Pastor, open the bread portion of the cup and partake. Then, when directed, carefully open the juice portion of the cup and partake. Please assist children and other members of your family who may have trouble opening the prefilled communion cups. Please hold onto your trash until you exit the sanctuary and dispose of your used cups in the provided waste receptacles.

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. . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(spoken)*

. . . 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Music during Communion

One Bread, One Body

530

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

+ SENDING HYMN

Nothing Can Trouble

820

Note: This meditative refrain from Taizé is based on a saying attributed to Teresa of Avila: "Let nothing trouble you; let nothing frighten you. All things are passing; God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever who possesses God lacks nothing; God alone suffices."

+ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Please leave prayerfully and in silence.

+ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Please join us on Wednesday evenings through April 6th for

Wednesday Night Alive Dinner	6:00 PM
Young People's Choir Rehearsal	6:25 PM
Lenten Worship with Communion	7:00 PM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Praise Team Rehearsal	8:30 PM

Please join us on **Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM** for a Christian Seder Meal Worship with Communion. Please RSVP on the church website, www.fupcdc.org by **Thursday, March 31st**. If you would like to volunteer to help or have questions, please contact Cathy Smith at cathy.l.smith@comcast.net or 571-330-7065.

On **Good Friday, April 15, 2022**, the church will be open for prayer, **8:30 - 2:30 PM**.