

The Order of Worship

March 18, 2012  
9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

THE CHURCH GATHERS ...

*When the prelude begins let us quietly prepare for the Worship of God.*

PRELUDE Prelude in G Felix Mendelssohn  
(from *Three Preludes and Fugues for the Organ*, Op. 37)

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 107:1-2,8

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**People: His steadfast love endures forever!**

Leader: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.

**People: Let us thank the Lord for his steadfast love.**

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

\*HYMN NO. 485 (blue hymnal) To God Be the Glory *To God Be the Glory*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Paraphrased from Matthew 5:3-10)

Leader: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**People: Forgive us our spiritual arrogance.**

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

**People: Forgive us our false independence.**

Leader: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

**People: Forgive us our misplaced aggression.**

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they shall be satisfied.

**People: Forgive us our gluttony.**

Leader: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

**People: Forgive us our hardened hearts.**

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

**People: Forgive us our half-hearted commitments.**

Leader: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

**People: Forgive us for supporting war and violence.**

Leader: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**People: Forgive us for failing to take a stand for what is right.**

\*KYRIE ELEISON

John L. Bell

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

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\*RESPONSE Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Divinum mysterium*

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

GOSPEL

John 3:1-8,14-21

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00)

Jean Bonnyman

Children age 4 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Children's Worship. A nursery is available during the entire service for infants through age 3.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 2:1-10

SERMON

"Three Essentials to Begin Again"

Rev. John Linton Muntz

*"How can anyone be born again after having grown old?" – John 3:4*

\*HYMN Help Us Accept Each Other

*Aurelia*

*(See insert)*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

God created the heavens and the earth and made human beings in God's image, charging them to care for all that lives. God made men and women to live in community, responding to their Creator with grateful obedience. God was incarnate in Jesus Christ, who announced good news to the poor, proclaimed release for prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, let broken victims go free, and proclaimed the year of the Lord's favor. Jesus came to seek and save the lost; in his life and death for others, God's redeeming love for all was made visible, and in the resurrection of Jesus Christ there is assurance of God's victory over sin and death and the promise of God's continuing presence in the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ... The Lord's Prayer

(During the Prayers of the People there will be a time of silence. You are invited to use this time for personal reflection, confession, thanksgiving, and prayer.)

THE OFFERING

*Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center aisle.*

*If you would like to receive our newsletter or more information about the church, include your address, phone number and email address. Though many of us contribute electronically or by a check in the mail, your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(9:00) Prélude (from *Suite No. 1 in G for Unaccompanied Cello*)

J. S. Bach

Ethan Partelow, Cello

(11:00) O Lord, Increase My Faith

Henry Loosemore  
formerly attr. Orlando Gibbons

O Lord, increase my faith, strengthen me and confirm me in Thy true faith; endue me with wisdom, charity, and patience, in all my adversity, sweet Jesus, say Amen.

Anonymous

**\*AT THE PRESENTATION** Doxology No. 591 (blue hymnal)

*Tallis' Canon*

(Sung to the tune of Hymn No. 542 (blue hymnal))

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...**

**\*HYMN NO. 356** (blue hymnal) (11:00) Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Nettleton*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 586** (blue hymnal) Amen

Danish melody

**\*POSTLUDE** Fugue in G

Felix Mendelssohn

(from *Three Preludes and Fugues for the Organ*, Op. 37)

\*Indicates standing.

**NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY**

**WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP** here today.

**PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK:** Cindy Serbin and Bill Farnham

**CARE TEAM COORDINATORS FOR MARCH:** Shirley Wittman and Lucy Johnson

**LARGE PRINT HYMNALS** are available from the ushers.

**SERVING TODAY**

**ACOLYTES** (11:00): Ethan Partelow and Ellie Tidwell

**GREETERS** (11:00): Joe Ben and Robin Turner

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:**

(9:00) Childcare through age 5

(11:00) Scott and Ashley Porter, Anna and Leah Milam

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** (11:00) Chancel Choir

**SENIOR USHER:** Tom Byerley

**USHERS:**

(9:00) Kathy Huck and Don Graham

(11:00) Rick Rawe, Janice Rawe, Shirley Wittman, Michael Yates, LoAnn Price

**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY** are given by Shirley and John Wittman in celebration of their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**OUR THANKS** to Ethan Partelow for his enrichment of our worship this morning.

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT**, there is a connection of sorts between much of this morning's music. Samuel Sebastian Wesley, the composer of our second hymn, was perhaps the most important of the Romantic English choral composers, rescuing sacred music there when it was in decline. His father was the composer Samuel Wesley, who like Felix Mendelssohn, was largely responsible for bringing the music of J. S. Bach back into the mainstream repertoire. Today's organ voluntaries make up a single work, a two-part form called a prelude and fugue. J. S. Bach and other German composers utilized this form frequently.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Bible Class**

**Prayer Room**

We will look at how Jesus' ministry changed in the weeks before his death and resurrection. The period we celebrate as Lent is packed with parables, predictions, and prayers! Join us for the joy of the journey in the Bible.

***The Prodigal God***

**McKinnon Room**

*The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller is a teaching film and group study based on Jesus' parable of The Prodigal Son. This study continues each Sunday throughout Lent.

**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** meets tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. in the SHOW room.

**THE MORNING BOOK CLUB** will meet Tuesday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m. in the SHOW room. We will be discussing the book, *Still Alice*. This is an interesting book about early-onset Alzheimer's Disease. Please join us!

**WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER**

**Dinner and Fellowship**

Tuesday, March 20 - 6:00 p.m.

All women of Westminster are invited to join us for dinner at Pelancho's in Downtown West. Please RSVP to Anne Langley.

**THE CAP (Caring for Aging Parents) GROUP** will meet Wednesday, March 21 at 4:30 p.m. in the Library. This group meets the third Wednesday of each month.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERIES**

Join us at 5:45 p.m. each Wednesday evening during Lent for a simple meal of soup and bread, followed by a service of evening prayers in the sanctuary. This reflective time focuses on scripture, song and prayer as we prepare ourselves for Easter.

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST:** Start your day off right with breakfast, fellowship and a short study session. On Thursday, March 22 at 7:00 a.m. we will meet in the McKinnon Room for breakfast prepared by Tom Byerley and a lesson led by Phil Barnette. If you want to review the lesson ahead of time, just pick up a copy in the church office or ask the office to email the lesson to you. Everyone is welcome.

**A STATED SESSION MEETING** is next Sunday, March 25 at 12:15 p.m. in the McKinnon Room.

**PLEASE STOP BY THE SCHILLING GALLERY** to see the group show by members of the Tennessee Artists Association. This is a diverse group of paintings and photos for your viewing pleasure. If you are interested in purchasing any of the art work, please contact the artist directly (phone number is on the label) for the price. The show will be up through April 29.

**THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE** would like for members of the Westminster Congregation to submit possible nominees for Elders (5) for the Class of 2015, for a Trustee (1) for the Class of 2015, and for a Youth Elder for the Class of 2013. Please turn these in to the church office or email recommendations to Pam Potocik no later than Friday, March 23. Your input as members of the Congregation is vital to the work of the Nominating Committee. Thank you!

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**EASTER FLOWERS**

Please help the Flower Guild this Easter as they adorn the sanctuary in celebration of our Lord's glorious ascension from the tomb. Checks of any amount are welcome and can be made out to Westminster Flower Guild in honor or memory of loved ones. These names will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin and *Abbey*. Easter lilies will be available after the service to deliver to those who are unable to attend worship, or to recycle into your garden. Thank you for supporting this annual tradition.

Donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ given in (please circle your choice) honor/memory of:  
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Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE WESTMINSTER GARDEN GUILD** is looking for some additional volunteers to help us maintain the various landscaping beds and paths on the church campus. This normally involves a few hours per month to weed, water, mulch, etc. Sharing these activities makes for light work and good fellowship - not to mention providing an attractive setting for worship and contemplation. If you have an interest and a willingness, please contact Tom Byerley.



**THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING** will be collected on Easter Sunday, April 8. The offering is used to support those whose lives have been impacted by disaster, as well as those made vulnerable by hunger, disease, unemployment and environmental degradation. Our gifts are divided among the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for more information.