

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *O Darkest Woe*

Wilbur Held

Prayer of Preparation

God of extravagant love, as Mary anointed Jesus' feet with precious perfume, anoint us with your mercy. Make us ready for the day when you will pour out your grace at the foot of the cross, through the costly self-offering of our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Nancy Johnson

Call to Worship (responsive)

Like Mary, who lavished her treasure on the feet of Christ,

we come now to worship and offer ourselves to the Lord.

The things we once treasured are worthless,

compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus!

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 463 – *How Firm a Foundation*

* Call to Confession

Are you thirsty for grace? Are you hungry for mercy? God is calling; come to the waters. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin. (Isaiah 55:1)

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you. We fix our minds on former things, missing the new thing you are doing. We focus on worldly treasure and gain, forgetting the value of knowing Christ. Forgive us, God of grace. Through the great mystery of faith deliver us from our captivity to sin and lead us from death to life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Listen, so that you may live: The steadfast love of the Lord never fails. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.** (Isaiah 55:3)

* The Congregation's Response: *Gloria Patri*

Hymn 581

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

Miriam Crotwell

Prayer for Illumination

God of all truth, put a new and right spirit within us — your Holy Spirit — so that, as we listen for your Word in the Scripture and the sermon, we may hear your voice and respond with courage. Amen.

First Reading – Philippians 3:4b-14

pew Bible pg. 954

Anthem – *My Jesus I Love Thee*

arr. by: Dan Forrest

Morgan Burroughs, soprano

Second Reading – John 12:1-11

pew Bible pg. 874

Sermon – *The Home of Lazarus*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 629 – *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

* Affirmation of Faith: Taken from the *Book of Common Worship* 1992 (unison)

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.

Prayers of the People (responsive)

Let us have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus as we pray for the world he came to save, saying: Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church . . . Help us to know our Lord Jesus Christ,

And the surpassing value of life in him, mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world . . . Show us the new thing you are doing. Stop the wheels of the chariots of war. Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community . . . Give us a genuine concern for the poor, Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones . . . Remember those who are sick and suffering. Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

As we pour out our hearts in prayer, O God, lead us to pour out our lives in service to you — ever seeking your will, all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Invitation to Offering

All that we seek to accomplish, all that we strive to achieve, all that we claim to possess — all of this amounts to nothing without the grace of Christ. With gratitude, let us offer our lives to the Lord. (Philippians 3:7-8)

Offertory – *Chanson*

Douglas Wagner

* The Doxology – Hymn 606

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

O God, we trust you to be our refuge and fortress in good times and in times of trouble. Use the gifts we share today to provide shelter for those who are homeless, food for those who are hungry, comfort for those who are afflicted, and freedom for those who are oppressed. We commit to you the gift of our money and the gifts of our lives, so that we may be instruments of your healing in the world. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 697 – *Take My Life*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

May the Spirit of the triune God strengthen and sustain you, all throughout these forty days and into the life that is to come. **Amen.** (Luke 4:1-2)

Go in peace, proclaiming the message of reconciliation God has entrusted to us. **Amen.** (2 Corinthians 5:19)

* Postlude – *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

Walter Pelz



* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold**.

Parts of today's liturgy have been adapted from *Call to Worship Lectionary Aids for 2015-2016, Year C*.



PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

(* new added prayers)

Terri Banks, friend of Pam Love – at home with 24-hour care

Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's

Dave Beveridge, friend of Alice Crotwell – stomach cancer

Jan Bozeman – constant pain

Laura Pearce Cureton, Nancy Johnson's goddaughter – nerve block therapy continues

Kim Davis, Dan Davis' sister-in-law – battling cancer

Vida Davis, sister of Ruthie Davis – dementia

Jessica Dubing, daughter of a friend of Ruthie Davis – paralyzed from motorcycle accident

Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

**Iris Easterling – rest and recovery*

Bill and Louise Edwards, friends of Charles Brown – strength and endurance

Hudson Elliott, grandson of friends of the Reidenbachs—NICU at UMMC with undiagnosed health concerns

Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia

Jessica Gleckler, niece of Sharon Potin—paralysis after neck surgery

Brigitte Glowiak, Carolyn McLarnan's family – breast cancer

Arlandra Harvey, former choir member – waiting for a kidney transplant

Peggy Henry, Karen Reidenbach's sister—in rehab for addiction

Charlotte Hill

Ann Johnson

Geraldine Jones

Collier Knutson, grandson of a friend of Gwen Combs – waiting on heart transplant

Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father – Alzheimer's

B.J. Lambert

Deloris McLaurin, Glenn Nobles' first cousin – dementia

Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength

Carolyn Mitchell Pintard, Bill & Betty Mitchell's daughter – grave health issues

Shannon Love Roberson, daughter of Pam Love – health issues

Stephanie Cummings Shaver, daughter of Kathryn and Robert Cummings – at home recovering, no visitors

Gibson Smith, friend of Charles Brown – cancer

Michael Scheetz, Maggie Scheetz's son – prayers for health issues

Laura Todd, Grayson Rayborn's cousin – multiple health issues

Louise Traxler, Karen Reidenbach's mom – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Elizabeth Robinson, Betty & Bill Mitchell's daughter – chemo and radiation treatment

Isobel Treen, Carolyn McLarnan's cousin – heart issues

Thank You

The youth would like to thank you for supporting our car wash. We raised \$831 through your generous donations.



Greeting and Announcements

Welcome to Westminster! We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please silence cell phones during the worship hour.

The session has called for a congregational meeting on April 13. The purpose of the meeting will be to hear a report from the church officer nominating committee and to elect new officers for the class of 2028.

Deacons:

1. Gwen Combs
2. Brandon Hayes
3. Carlie Kaepler
4. Drew Suttle

Elders:

1. Pam Love
2. Charlie Parkman
3. Annie Richerson

Youth: Elisa Suttle

Trustee: Althea Jerome

Happenings at Westminster

Growing Spiritually—today at 11:35

Youth only—today 5-6:30 p.m. (meal provided)

Circle 1—Tuesday, at 9:30 a.m.

Brown Bag—Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

Circle 2—Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

No Wednesday night supper or activity.

Choir—Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Men or the Church—Thursday at 7:00 a.m.

at Loblolly

Worship Committee—Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
in the conference room

Deacons and Session—Sunday, April 13,
following the congregational meeting

Youth Dessert/Casserole Auction—May 7

The Youth are **collecting small individually wrapped candy and small trinkets** for the Easter Egg Hunt. There is a box by the church office for any donations.

Did you know that Westminster Presbyterian **STILL** holds Sunday school each Sunday morning at 9:30? And did you know that Sunday School is still very important for our day-to-day lives as followers of Jesus Christ? Sunday school gives a specific place and time each week to study the Bible in depth, ask questions about our faith in a safe environment, and to help build a stronger sense of community within the life of the church. Plus, sometimes it is just down right fun! Come on back to Sunday school, y'all.



It is time to purchase Easter lilies. A signup sheet is on the narthex cabinet. The cost is \$15 per lily. Deadline is April 13. Please leave money or a check in a brown envelope and put in the pink box on the narthex cabinet. This is a fundraiser for the youth and children's summer camps.

Holy Week Summary

April 17 - Maundy Thurs. at 6:00 p.m.

April 18 - Good Friday at noon

April 20 - Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.
Brunch/Egg Hunt at 9:00 a.m.
Worship/Communion 10:30 a.m.

There is a **sign-up sheet** in the bulletin for the Easter brunch; please place in offering plate.