



3rd Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025



University Presbyterian Church

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Choir Director: Ross Cawthon Pastor: Mamie Broadhurst
Organist: Christopher Cunningham Ministers: The people of this church
Audio/Visual: Tom Shelton/Gus Rowland

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Whether you are worshipping in the sanctuary or online, at any time in the course of the service, you are invited to light a candle signifying a concern, a desire for healing, a confession, or a prayer of thanksgiving that, though private, you would like to remember in the midst of our worship.

*Please speak aloud the bold portions of the liturgy in the bulletin.
The asterisk * is an invitation for worshipers to rise in body or spirit as able.*

GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This
arr. J William Green
Lorenz, 2020

WELCOME/CANDLE LIGHTING

Mamie Broadhurst

MINUTE FOR MISSION

George Strain

INTROIT

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
Arr. Robert J. Powell
Concordia Press, 2012

*Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.
As Thou did hunger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live by Thy most holy Word.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Hattie Knapp

Come as you are.

if you have deep faith or your faith has run dry,

if you know every scripture or none at all,

if you have calloused hands and live your faith through good works,

or if you kneel at God's feet, with a million hungry questions,

come as you are.

This is God's house.

None are turned away.

All are welcome here.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Linda Walker

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of Grace,

We long to do the “right” thing.

We long to make the “right” choice.

We long to stand on the “right” side of the dividing line.

In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us.

In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.

A TIME OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

Show us how to hold our heart’s desire for perfection loosely.

Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.

For even more than our desire to be right,

we desire to be close to you.

Show us the way.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (*responsive*)

Faithful friends, God knows your heart.

When you mean well and lose your way, God knows.

When you try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows.

When you long to be close to God, and doubt your worth, God knows.

You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven.

You have been sent to serve.

This is the good news of the gospel!

Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Hymn 447 We are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. (2x)

WE EXPERIENCE GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON
Luke 10:38-42

SERMON

Mamie Broadhurst

WE RESPOND WITH DEDICATION

*HYMN No. 324

For All the Faithful Women

OFFERING of GIFTS

Reflect on your response to the work of Christ in the world today, and consider making a commitment of time, talents, and resources. Online giving is available. See the announcements for more information.

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of reflection and action,
You invite us to listen and to learn.
You also invite us to use our gifts for good
and celebrate every step we take in that direction.
May our offerings today include both,
and may they be used to glorify you always.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Throughout Lent we will celebrate the Lord's Supper, also known as the Eucharist. All who wish to partake in Christ's table are warmly invited to join.

For those who prefer, communion will be served directly to your seat. The elements consist of grape juice and gluten-free bread.

All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of age or understanding. (PCUSA Book of Order W-3.0409)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, and everything in between...

Our Mother and Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

All worshipers are invited to come forward (lectern/left side) or backward (pulpit/right side) by the center aisle, take the bread and dip it into the cup, and return to their pew by the side aisles.

ANTHEM

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Arranged by Stephen Casurella

Copyright St. James Press, 2014

Swing low, sweet chariot,

Coming for to carry me home,

Swing low, sweet chariot,

Coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordon, and what did I see,

Coming for to carry me home?

*A band of angels coming after me,
Coming for to carry me home.*

*If you get there before I do,
Coming for to carry me home.
Tell all my friends I'm coming too,
Coming for to carry me home.*

*Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.*

*I looked over Jordon, and what did I see,
Coming for to carry me home?
A band of angels coming after me,
Coming for to carry me home.*

*If you get there before I do,
Coming for to carry me home.
Tell all my friends I'm coming too,
Coming for to carry me home.*

COMMUNION PRAYER

HYMN No. 837

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*CHARGE and BENECTION

Believe that good news, and go in peace knowing that God is....
Everywhere.

POSTLUDE

A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief
arr. Clay Christiansen
Jackman Music, 2021

*Many thanks to Tom Shelton and Gus Rowland
for their work livestreaming the service this morning
and to Spencer LeFebvre for directing the choir today.*



Mary & Martha

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Luke 10:38-42

Digital painting

Growing up, I felt I had to decide whether I was a Mary or a Martha. I never identified with Martha because the culturally-prescribed roles of a woman were my weakness, and I didn't identify with Mary either because she seemed more earnest than I felt.

Diving into the Greek of this text helped me work through my very well-worn opinions to find some nuance. Martha's work was not limited to cooking and cleaning; the Greek word used for her many tasks is *διακονία* which also means "service, ministering, and promoting religion."³ With this layered meaning in mind, it is clear to me that Jesus' response is not about Martha's ministry, but her preoccupation with Mary.

I think the most pivotal shift in translation is found in v. 42 where it is often translated, "Mary has chosen the better part." When you

look at the Greek, however, it can also be translated as, "a good portion" or "a useful share."⁴ In light of this, I believe Jesus is not offering a value judgment between them, but assuaging Martha's worry by affirming that Mary is doing a good portion of the work too.

Mary sits at the feet of Jesus, a place that was reserved for men. I wonder if Martha was concerned about what might happen to Mary for being out of "her place." Jesus' response is radical because he affirms she has chosen a good portion of the work, and even though she is not where she is expected to be, no one can take that away from her. Jesus protects her right to assume the position of a disciple.

In this image, Mary eagerly reaches toward Jesus. Her clothing is patterned with mustard seeds and flowers because her faith may seem small, but her boundary-breaking faithfulness will nurture her faith to grow beyond what seems possible. Martha reaches toward Mary to pull her into more "appropriate" work. Martha's dress is patterned with open hands to image her vital ministry of welcome, service, and cultivating space for Jesus' message to take root. I imaged Jesus equally affirming both Mary and Martha's lived-out faiths. He is green, the combination of Mary and Martha's colors (yellow + blue), showing that he embodies the integration of both faith and works. —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

³ blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g1248/kiv/tr/0-1/

⁴ Strong's Greek Lexicon, G18 and G3310.



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ASK THE USHER IF YOU NEED A COPY.**

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