

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

5th Sunday of Lent

March 21, 2021

*You are invited to observe silence for one minute, breathing in and out,
centering yourself on the renewing and healing presence
of the Holy Spirit with us.*

VOLUNTARY

Koi Nidrei, Max Bruch, Carlos Vargas, Cello; Melody Davis, piano

OPENING HYMN 265 Jesus Shall Reign

CALL TO CONFESSION

Together we can confess our wayward lives, trusting in the One who longs to forgive us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Have mercy on us, God of steadfast love, according to your abundant mercy blot out all our wrongdoings. We know all too well, when we do sin, that we do it against you. You desire truth in all we think, and do and say; therefore etch your wisdom on the innermost places of our hearts. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put new and right spirits within us. Do not cast us from your presence and do not take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit so that we can respond joyfully to your intention for our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

Thanks be to God, in Jesus Christ, who chooses to forget our mistakes and forgive our sins.

RESPONSE 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pull us out of our frantic schedules, O God, free us from the worries, the ambitions, the fears that always seem to jostle their way to the center of our thoughts; free us, by your Spirit, now to hear your word. May the passages of Scripture read fall fresh on our ears and coax us to grow in faith and wisdom. Hear our prayer. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING

from Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant...it will not be like the old covenant: written on stone. This will be a radically new covenant, my laws will be within you: written on hearts. And God added these wonderful words - I am your God and you are my people. Imprint these words anew on our hearts, O God, so that we know you in all your fullness, love you as you love us, and worship you as you deserve.

ANTHEM

Angus Die
Sean Karlen, Sanctuary Choir

Robert Ray from *Gospel Mass*

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 106*)

John 12: 20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. ²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

HYMN I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

SERMON

Chiseled in Stone to Written on the Heart

Sherry Holloman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We Belong to God

We belong to God, eternal and infinite, creator of all things and all that is to come. We follow Christ, who comes to us from God, and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised by God, and reigns over all creation; and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world. We are moved by the Holy Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the Body of Christ, God's holy universal church. We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of resurrection and the reality of eternal life. In all things it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, we thank you that we stand in a long line of believers who have been faithful through the ages. You have been leading your people through trial and difficulty and have always set before them hope for today and hope for a better tomorrow. We pray that you would bless us in our time as we seek to be as faithful as the saints before us. May we too know the faith which is filled with hope in things not seen.

Give to us a faith like the grain of mustard seed which had small beginnings but which yielded large results. Give to us the faith to move the mountains of difficulty which come to each of us. Give to us the faith that sees a distant goal and is willing to work to achieve it. Give to us a faith which has a vision of a new world where peace and love characterize the transactions of people and of nations and where war is no more. Give to us a faith

such as Abraham's to move forward not knowing our destination but trusting in your guiding providence. Give to us a faith which is able to endure those moments of personal disquiet and to trust that you are with us. Give to us a faith which sees the welfare of humankind as our business because it is the focus of your enduring love for your people. Give to us a faith which sees beyond the years to an eternal city. Give us the faith, in whatever circumstances are staring us in the face right now, to hold fast to your promise of a plan and purpose for us this and every day. And, then God, give us faith to walk with you through the ebb and flow and the victories and the defeats of life and to achieve victory and mastery of life. Hear us as we pray: **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Scripture says, "The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it!" What God has provided, we are now invited to invest in the disciple-making mission of Christ's church. May we offer our best as we receive God's tithes and our offerings.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Take Up Your Cross
Sanctuary Choir*

David Haas

RESPONSE 1 *Holy, Holy, Holy* (verse 4 only)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Giving God, we share what we have with you, by offering these gifts and the service of our lives as signs of our thanksgiving and our desire to follow Jesus. This we pray in his name. Amen

DISMISSAL AND BENEDICTION

With the love of the Lord written upon our hearts, may we go out into the world in peace, have courage, host on to all that is good, return to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all persons; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 718 *Take Up Your Cross Your Savior Said*