

Presbyterian Church of Easton



Our Purpose is:
“To Live and Love Like Christ”

Rev. Charles Gilmore.....Worship Leader
Mr. Robert Huntington.....Director of Music
Mrs. Karen Newton Office Administrator
Dr. Dale Krider..... Organist

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTON

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

10:00 A.M.

THE CHURCH GATHERS

WORDS OF GREETING

Welcome to the Presbyterian Church of Easton. We come to sanctify ourselves. We come to be worthy of our call. The Lord looks not at our outward selves but seeks to know what is in our hearts. Let us learn what is pleasing to the Lord, that we might live as children of the Most High. We welcome those joining us by streaming and those present in our sanctuary. Please join us following the service for coffee / refreshments and to greet our worship leader, Rev. Charles Gilmore

PRELUDE *I Call to Thee*

ORGAN

Composed by J.S. Bach.
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CALL TO WORSHIP

LITURGIST: The day of the Lord is coming! The day of the Lord is near! The time is fulfilled! The reign of God is at hand! O, people, repent! Believe in the Gospel! Come; let us turn and follow the Lord!

***HYMN**

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

PH #172

My Shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is His Name:
In pastures fresh He makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back,
When I forsake His ways;
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death
Your presence is my stay;
One word of Your supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
Does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows,
Your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may Your house be my abode,
And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger, or a guest,
But like a child at home.

*Composed by Isaac Watt, Walker's Southern Harmony, Dale Grotenbuis
(RESIGNATION), 1990.
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CALL TO CONFESSION

LITURGIST: How do we know when our actions are right?

ALL: When the fruits of our labor are good and true.

LITURGIST: Christ is the light that exposes all we keep hidden but offers us healing and renewal instead of judgment. Therefore, let us hold up our sins to Christ's gaze.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we predict, but we forget: you do what is good, not what is expected. Forgive us when we did not recognize your miracles. Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions. Most of all, forgive us when we do not respond to your call, ignoring what we need to do to show the world Your love and grace. In Jesus' name we pray.

SILENT PRAYER

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

LITURGIST: Jesus restores our souls and leads us in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

ALL: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives long.

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's Word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

Composed by Frederick Faber, Dutch melody, arr. Julius Rontgen (IN BABILONE).

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THE PEACE

LITURGIST: As God has given us peace through Christ, so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.

The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

(Greet each other with a sign or handshake, whichever you are comfortable with.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LITURGIST: Send Your spirit among us, O God, as we meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Prepare our minds to hear Your Word. Move our hearts to accept what we hear. Purify our will to obey in joy and faith. This we pray through Christ, our Savior. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23

LITURGIST: Listen for and to the word of God.

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;^[a]

³ he restores my soul.^[b]

He leads me in right paths^[c]
for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,^[d]

I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶Surely^[e] goodness and mercy^[f] shall follow me

all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.^[g]

LITURGIST: The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 9: 1-41

REV. CHARLES GILMORE: Listen for and to the word of God.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We^[a] must work the works of him who sent me^[b] while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind

man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus^[c] to be the Messiah^[d] would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You

were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”^[g] ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir?^[g] Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord,^[g] I believe.” And he worshipped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

REV. CHARLES GILMORE: The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

My Shepherd is the Lord

CHOIR

He is my shepherd, He meets my needs.
To quiet meadows, my shepherd leads.
There my weary soul will be restored.
My shepherd is the Lord.

He spurs me on and He bids me wait,
and through the shadows He shows me the way.
I need not be afraid of evil's sword.
My shepherd is the Lord.

My body's weary. My mind is tired.
My work seems futile and my hope retires.
He brings a feast of blessings to my table,
to bring a peace as only He is able.

Goodness and mercy shall follow me,
and in His flock I forever will be.
Until the beauty of the last reward,
my shepherd is the Lord.

*Composed by Pepper Choplin.
Published by Glory Sound / Shawnee Press, 1995.
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MESSAGE “Vision or Sight?”

REV. CHARLES GILMORE

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

(Let us stand together and affirm our faith.)

ALL: I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***HYMN** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* PH#280

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

*Composed by John Newton, Virginia Harmony, arr. Edwin Excell.
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INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Liturgical Prelude #1*

ORGAN

*Composed by George Oldroyd.
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***DOXOLOGY** “Lord of All Good” PH#375 (st. 1)

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to You;
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill;
Tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
That our whole life is offered to Your will.

*Composed by Albert Bayly, Genevan Psalter (TOULON).
Published by Oxford University Press, 1969.
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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(The offering plates are brought forward by the ushers. After the blessing, the ushers take them back with them.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

***HYMN**

Great is Thy Faithfulness

PH#276

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

*Composed by Thomas Chisholm, William Runyan (FAITHFULNESS).
Published by Hope Publishing Company, 1923 / 1951.
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***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Final (Symphony no. 2)

ORGAN

*Composed by Charles Marie Widor.
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Today's flowers were donated by Muriel Fancher, in loving memory of her husband, Lee.

*We welcome and thank our liturgist, Joan Collins, and Rev. Charles Gilmore for leading us
this Sunday morning.*