

MERRITT ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Leading in Worship: Rev. Christina Greenawalt and Leslie Neihouse

March 3, 2024

In Person and Facebook Live

10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Lent

Wandering Heart
"Praise the mount"



Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Pastor Christina

Call to Worship (**responsive**):

Liturgist

God invites and calls us into His presence to worship Him. He enters into our busy lives to speak to us.

One: If you ask the sky who God is,

All: the sky will tell you of God's reach.

One: If you ask the day who God is,

All: the sun will tell you of God's warmth.

One: If you ask the night who God is,

All: the moon will tell you of God's comfort.

One: "The heavens are telling the glory of God" Are you listening?

All: We are listening!

One: We will sing of God's glory.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

Congregational Hymn # 475:

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.*

*Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.*

*Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.*

*Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

Time with the Young and Young at 

Call to Confession

Liturgist

Prayer of Confession (**Responsive**):

One: Holy God, some days, we are quick to declare your goodness. Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith. Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.

All: Forgive us for losing sight of you.

One: Some days we are quick to trust your blessings— trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference. Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.

All: Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.

One: We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace.

All: Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness (**responsive**):

Liturgist

One: Friends, whether you speak to God in a whisper or with clear conviction, with questions or with answers, with hope in your heart or with doubt in your throat—God will always listen with love and mercy. So rest in this good news: regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God. You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven. Speak that good news with confidence. Amen.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response to Assurance:

Freely, Freely

*God forgave my sin in Jesus' name. I've been born again in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you to share His love as He told me to
He said freely freely you have received; freely freely give
Go in My name and because you believe, others will know that I live.*

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist

First Reading:

Psalm 19

Page 613, OT

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music:

Wandering Heart: Return to You (video)

Second Reading:

Matthew 16:13-20

Page 22, NT

One: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Message:

Wandering Heart: "Praise the Mount"

Rev. Christina Greenawalt

Responding to the Word

Invitation to Live Generously: *The offering basket is near the back door of the sanctuary.
You may also give online at www.merrittislandpc.org*

Response:

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Hymn # 460:

Break Thou the Bread of Life

*Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord. My spirit pants for thee, O living Word!
Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, now unto me, as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall. And I shall find my peace, my all in all.*

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving/The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Words of Institution / Distribution of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Closing Hymn # 353:

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (verses 1 and 4)

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

*When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.*

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Joyce Walker

Ushers: Frances Fernald, June Hutchinson, Craig Smoot
Attendance Last Week: In Person: 41, On Line: 12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today, whether you are here in person or online! We gather together as a church family, from wherever we may be. If you would like to know more about MIPC, how you can be more involved, or to speak to the pastor, please contact the church office at the number/email below.

Lenten Series: We are using the Sanctified Art series *Wandering Heart*, which focuses on Jesus' disciple Peter. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us. There are devotionals in the Narthex; watch for our daily Facebook posts throughout Lent as we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the Resurrection.

Daylight Savings Time: Remember that DST starts next Sunday morning - don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour!

Ways to Serve

Faith Formation Ministries & Preschool: Are you looking for ways to serve at MIPC? We have some wonderful and fun opportunities coming up this month!

Easter Egg Stuffing Party: Tuesday, March 19th, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.-Activities Room-Come join us and help stuff eggs as we prepare for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. It's a great time of Fellowship and lunch will be provided. If you're interested please R.S.V.P. to Pam Poland @ mipcffm@gmail.com or see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we know how much food to prepare.

Easter Festival: Saturday, March 23rd, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.-Fellowship Hall-Come join us for this wonderful free church event! All are welcome! Our Activities this year include: Face Painting, Balloon Artist, Visit with the Easter Bunny, Easter Egg Hunt, Crafts, Bunny Bowling, Duck Pond Ring Toss and a Fellowship Luncheon. Can you help with: Event set-up, Games & Activities, Hiding eggs, Food service, Event clean-up?

If you love working with children and would like to volunteer to help with our celebration, please contact Pam Poland @ mipcffm@gmail.com or Tammy Lewis @ mipcpreschool@gmail.com. There is also a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex.

Girl Scouts: Troop 278, who meet here at MIPC, will have Girl Scout Cookies for sale after worship TODAY.

Today is our monthly collection of canned goods and toiletries for the Preschool Food Pantry and Central Florida Sharing Center. You can bring donations at any time to the box and wagon in the Narthex.

CPR Class: This Saturday, March 9, Tammy Lewis will teach a CPR class in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM. Cost is \$15. Call or email the Preschool for more information. mipcpreschool@gmail.com, (321) 453-1640.

Palm Sunday/Easter Choir: Our Resurrection Singers will be singing in worship on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Our first rehearsal is next Sunday, March 10 right after worship. If you are interested, please contact Maryrose Beerman at 321-607-0269 text/cell or maryroseb@tt.net.

Calling All Gardeners! Please meet in the Memorial Garden on Monday, March 25 from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM for a Spring clean-up of our garden. Change of Greenery will have 2 workers to help and guide us. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Let's help make our Memorial Garden beautiful for Easter! See Pat Smith if you have any questions.

One Great Hour of Sharing: For over 75 years, OGHs has helped Presbyterians share God's love all over the world. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. See the flyers and special envelopes in the Narthex for more information.

Postcards: We have postcards in the Narthex that have all the information on our Lent series and services. Help yourself and pass some out to your friends, family & neighbors!

Ways to Connect

Join us for coffee and fellowship in the Narthex after worship. Thank you, Toni Donohue, for providing goodies today! If you'd like to bring snacks one week, there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Adult Faith Enrichment Class: Join us for Adult Faith Formation at 9:00 a.m. in the Session Room or on Zoom. Our Lenten study is *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms* with Dave Hertzler. All are welcome at any time! The Zoom link is emailed weekly.

Women's Ministry: Fabulous Fridays! Come and join us in the Activities Room every other Friday @ 2:00 p.m. for our Women's Bible Study Group. (Our next gathering is March 22.) Our study, led by Julie Hill, is titled "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts." Please contact Julie Hill for more information and questions. cj2hill@bellsouth.net or 321-431-5333.

Celebrations & Concerns

Happy Birthday to:

March 3: Julia "Sis" Beckman

March 4: T.J. Mitchell

March 4: Maryrose Beerman

March 5: Kristin Fjeldheim

March 5: Stephanie Serfozo

Happy Anniversary to:

March 7: Bunny & Phil Finney

Our Prayers are with:* Sis Beckman, Cindy Bottomley, Dot Corbett, Carolyn Crockett, Andre Koodie, Elaine Krieger, Janet Post, Kelly Shephard, and George Wilcox.

** Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks unless otherwise requested. If you would like your prayer concern to be shared on our Prayer Chain Email (or if you'd like to be on the email distribution list), contact Jill Franklin at mipcpayerchain600@gmail.com, or make a note on the Prayer Request card in the pew.*

Thank you, Jeana Lutz and Joyce Walker, for the beautiful music today - and thank you Joyce for filling in for Maryrose!

THIS WEEK AT MIPC:

Monday, March 4, 1:00 PM..... FFM Committee, Session Room
Monday, March 4, 6:00 PM..... Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, March 5, 3:00 PM: Kids Klub, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, March 5, 8:00 PM:..... AA, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, March 6, 3:30 PM: One Purpose, Fellowship Hall
Thursday, March 7, 6:00 PM: Square Dancers, Fellowship Hall
Saturday, March 9, 10:30 AM CPR class in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 10, 9:00 AM: Adult Faith Formation, Session Room
Sunday, March 10, 10:00 AM: Worship Service
Sunday, March 10, 11:00 AM Christ the King Church worship service, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 10, 3:00 PM Girl Scouts, Fellowship Hall

For more information on any of these events, check with the church office.

Rev. Christina Greenawalt, Pastor

Maryrose Beerman, Acting Music Director
Tammy Lewis, Preschool Director
Leslie Mitchell, Financial Secretary
James Neihouse, Live Feed Director/Producer
www.merrittislandpc.org

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