

**MERRITT ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Leading in Worship: Rev. Christina Greenawalt and Karlene Mohan**

**March 10, 2024**

**In Person and Facebook Live**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**



Gathering Music

*Wandering Heart: Return to You (video)*

Words of Welcome

Pastor Christina

Prelude:

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Maryrose Beerman & Joyce Walker

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: On our worst days,

**All: God is good.**

One: On our best days,

**All: God is good.**

One: When life is consistent,

**All: God is good.**

One: And when life turns on its head,

**All: God is good.**

One: Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

**All: God is good. God is here. God is love.**

One: Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

Congregational Hymn # 450:

***Be Thou My Vision***

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;*

*Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;*

*Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou, mine inheritance, now and always;*

*Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!*

*Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

Time with the Young and Young at ❤️

Call to Confession

Liturgist

Prayer of Confession (unison):

**Holy God, we often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, "This should not happen!" We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.**

Words of Forgiveness (responsive):

Liturgist

One: Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God, no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change— we worship a God of grace. Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine. We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven. Now follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world. Amen.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Response to Assurance:

***My Faith Looks Up to Thee (verse 1)***

Hymn # 829

*My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!*

*Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away; O let me from this day be wholly thine!*

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist

First Reading:

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

Page 687, OT

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

Special Music (Congregational):

***Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King***

*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 Thy redeeming love*

*I was lost in utter darkness 'til You came and rescued me*

*I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free*

*Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home*

*Now Your grace is always with me and I'll never be alone*

*Come, Thou Fount, come, Thou King; Come, Thou precious Prince of Peace*

*Hear Your bride, to You we sing, come, Thou Fount of our blessing*

*Come, Thou Fount, come, Thou King; Come, Thou precious Prince of Peace*

*Hear Your bride, to You we sing, come, Thou Fount of our blessing*

*O, to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be*

*Let Thy goodness, 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, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above*

*Come, Thou Fount, come, Thou King; Come, Thou precious Prince of Peace*

*Hear Your bride, to You we sing, come, Thou Fount of our blessing*

*Come, Thou Fount, come, Thou King; Come, Thou precious Prince of Peace*

*Hear Your bride, to You we sing, come, Thou Fount of our blessing*

Second Reading:

Matthew 16:21-23

Page 22, NT

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

Message:

Wandering Heart: "I'm Fixed Upon It"

Rev. Christina Greenawalt

### Responding to the Word

Pastoral Prayer/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.**

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

Closing Hymn:

### ***The Way ("In the Cross of Christ I Glory")***

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

*Faithfully I learned to follow step by step and not to stray  
Marching on with proud bravado, claiming Jesus as the way  
Life was easy, faith was stable, then the pathway climbed uphill  
Life got harder past the cradle. Jesus Christ I followed still  
Thread by thread my faith unraveled when the way became unknown  
Solid ground gave way to gravel, so I cling to Christ alone  
Though the way leads through steep canyons, I surrender my control  
Christ is still my sure companion as the path before unfolds.*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude:

*To God Be The Glory*

Joyce Walker & Maryrose Beerman

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*Ushers: Cheryl & Fred Mahan, Craig Smoot  
Attendance Last Week: In Person: 41, On Line: 21*  
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## **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.

## Ways to Serve

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

**5 Cents Per Meal:** Today we receive this offering which goes to food and hunger needs both locally and internationally. See the display in the Narthex and the specially marked envelopes near the offering basket; or you may just note "5 Cents/Meal" on your check. In March, 5 cents per meal equals \$4.65 - consider rounding up to \$5!

**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. in the 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](mailto: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. in 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](mailto:mipcffm@gmail.com) or Tammy Lewis @ [mipcpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:mipcpreschool@gmail.com). There is also a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex.

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** Through Easter Sunday (March 31), we receive this PC(USA) offering. For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around 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. Please consider giving to this wonderful cause. Special envelopes and flyers with more information are available in the Narthex.

## Ways to Connect

**Join us for coffee and fellowship** in the Narthex after worship. Thank you, Fred & Cheryl Mahan, 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](mailto:cj2hill@bellsouth.net) or 321-431-5333.

## **Celebrations & Concerns**

### **Happy Birthday to:**

March 13: Trevor Murdoch

### **Happy Anniversary to:**

March 12: David & Stacy Boote

**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 [mipcprayerchain600@gmail.com](mailto:mipcprayerchain600@gmail.com), or make a note on the Prayer Request card in the pew.*

**Thank you,** Maryrose Beerman, Jeana Lutz, and Joyce Walker, for the beautiful music today!

### **THIS WEEK AT MIPC:**

Monday, March 11, 11:15 AM	Staff Meeting
Monday, March 11, 4:30 PM	Deacons, Session Room
Monday, March 11, 6:00 PM	Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, March 12, 3:00 PM:	Kids Klub, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, March 12, 8:00 PM:	AA, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, March 13, 10:00 AM:	Heavenly Handmade, Activities Room
Wednesday, March 13, 3:30 PM:	One Purpose, Fellowship Hall
Thursday, March 14, 6:00 PM:	Finance Committee, Zoom
Thursday, March 14, 6:00 PM:	Square Dancers, Fellowship Hall
Thursday, March 14, 7:00 PM:	Presbyterian Women, Zoom
Sunday, March 17, 9:00 AM:	Adult Faith Formation, Session Room
Sunday, March 17, 10:00 AM:	Worship Service
Sunday, March 17, 11:00 AM	Christ the King Church service, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 17, 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](http://www.merrittislandpc.org)

(321) 452-5689

Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries  
Robyn Mills, Preschool Director  
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