

MERRITT ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Leading in Worship: Rev. Christina Greenawalt and Pam Poland

March 17, 2024

In Person and Facebook Live

10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Gathering Music *Wandering Heart: Return to You (video)*
Words of Welcome Pastor Christina
Moment for Mission Pam Poland
Prelude: *God's Amazing Grace* 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: Why are you here?

All: I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

One: I see it! You're in the right place! This is God's house. The door is open to you.

All: Why are you here?

One: I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

All: We see that in you! You're in the right place. This is God's house. The door is open to you.

One: Let us worship God.

All: Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

Congregational Hymn # 688: ***Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart (verses 1, 4, & 5)***

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth; through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art, and make me love Thee as I ought to love.*

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh; **teach me** the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh; **teach me** the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame;
The kindling of the heav'n-descended Dove, my heart an altar, and Thy love the flame

Time with the Young and Young at 

Call to Confession

Liturgist

Prayer of Confession (**unison**):

**Holy God, we long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.
Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher."**

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.

Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.

Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.

Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, “How many times should we forgive?”—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness (**responsive**):

Liturgist

One: Family of faith, when Peter asked Jesus, “How many times should I forgive?” Jesus responded with abundance. That abundance exists for you as well. No matter what you have done or left undone, no matter what lessons you have learned or are still learning, God’s abundant grace exists for you. God’s love will never run out. So hear and rest in this good news: You are forgiven. You are loved. You are invited to serve.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response to Assurance:

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (verse 1)

*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*

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist

First Reading:

Psalm 119: 9-16

Page 696, OT

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

Special Music:

Let All Mortal Flesh

Sharon Hertzler, Handbells

Second Reading:

Matthew 18:15-22

Page 24, NT

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

Message:

Wandering Heart: "Teach Me"

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*

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 # 754:

Help Us Accept Each Other

*Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; **teach us** as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.
Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some, to love them as we find them or as they may become.*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Joyce Walker & Maryrose Beerman

Ushers: Betsy Heenan, Craig Smoot, Marsha Strickland
Attendance Last Week: In Person: 36, On Line: 14

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.

The Flowers Today are given by Kathy Porche in honor of Faye Porche’s birthday on March 19.

Ways to Serve

Palm Sunday/Easter Choir: Our Resurrection Singers will be singing in worship on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We will rehearse today, March 17, and next Sunday, March 24, 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.

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 or see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

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 or Tammy Lewis @ 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.

Scout Troop 343 is having a fundraiser this Tuesday, March 19. If you order food from Sonny’s Barbecue in Merritt Island between 5 & 9 PM, a portion of the sales go to the Scouts.

Ways to Connect

Join us for coffee and fellowship in the Narthex after worship. Thank you, Marsha Strickland and Frances Fernald, 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 17: Sandy Hill
March 17: Betsy Heenan
March 19: Richard Ficker
March 19: Carl Crockett, Jr.
March 22: Karlene Mohan
March 23: Jim McConnaha

Happy Anniversary to:

March 18: Janet & Bob Post

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, or make a note on the Prayer Request card in the pew.*

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

THIS WEEK AT MIPC:

Monday, March 18, 6:00 PM.....Scouts, Fellowship Hall	Friday, March 22, 2:00 PM: Fabulous Friday, Activities Rm
Tuesday, March 19, 11:00 AM.....Egg Stuffing, Activities Room	Saturday, March 23, 10 AM: Easter Festival, FH
Tuesday, March 19, 3:00 PM:Kids Klub, Fellowship Hall	Sunday, March 24, 9:00 AM: Adult Class, Session Rm
Tuesday, March 19, 8:00 PM:.....AA, Fellowship Hall	Sunday, March 24, 10:00 AM: ... PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP
Wednesday, March 20, 3:30 PM: ..One Purpose, Fellowship Hall	Sunday, March 24, 11:00 AM: ... Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Friday, March 22:.....Easter Festival Setup, FH	Sunday, March 24, 11:00 AM: ... Christ the King Church service
	Sunday, March 24, 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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