

MERRITT ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Leading in Worship: Rev. Christina Greenawalt and Pam Poland

April 7, 2024

In Person and Facebook Live

10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter - Special Gathering



Gathering Music: *Wandering Heart: Return to You (video)*

Words of Welcome

Pastor Christina

Prelude:

Blessed Assurance

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: Jesus said,

All: "Follow me."

One: Jesus said,

All: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

One: Jesus said,

All: "Forgive seventy times seven."

One: Jesus said,

All: "Feed my sheep."

One: In response, we say:

All: "Here's my heart. Take and seal it. Seal it for thy courts above."

One: Let us worship God with all our hearts.

Congregational Hymn # 475: ***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (verses 1 & 3)***

*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.*

*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!*

Call to Confession

Liturgist

Prayer of Confession (unison):

Gracious God, like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink. You tell us your truth and we push it away. We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance. We profess our faith and deny it three times. We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence. Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith. Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination. Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness (responsive):

Liturgist


One: Friends, the first time that Peter saw Jesus after the crucifixion, Jesus asked him three times, "Do you love me?" This repetition was not because Jesus doubted Peter's word. This repetition was Jesus offering Peter grace. You see, the last time Jesus and Peter were together, Peter said three times, "I do not know that man." So when Jesus returned, he asked Peter, "Do you love me?" And in that moment, he allowed Peter to turn his denials into love. Friends, the grace of our God knows no end. When we stumble, when we fall, when we deny God or cause harm, Jesus meets us where we are and offers us a second chance. So rest in this good news. Does God love you? Yes, yes, yes. God loves you.

All: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love that never ends.

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*

Time with the Young and Young at 

Special Music:

Lord of Love

Special Gathering

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Christina

Reading:

John 21:1-19

Page 141, NT

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

Message:

Wandering Heart: "Here's my Heart..."

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

Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Hymn # 518:

Lamb of God

*Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.*

(Chorus) *O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

*Your gift of love, we crucified; we laughed and scorned him as he died;
the humble King we named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. (chorus)*

*I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God. (chorus)*

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 # 246:

Christ Is Alive! (verses 1, 2, & 5)

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Holy, Holy, Holy

Joyce Walker & Maryrose Beerman

Ushers: Frances Fernald, Lorri Peek, Mike Smith
Attendance Last Week: In Person: 81, On Line: 5

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.

We Welcome the Special Gathering today! Thank you, Richard and Nancy Stimson, for bringing your group here today to share their beautiful music. Special Gathering is a ministry dedicated to sharing the good news within the mentally challenged community in Brevard County. It was founded by Rev. Richard Stimson, whose parents, Jane & Bailey, were longtime members of MIPC. It is always a delight to have them share their music with us.

This Month is MIPC's 60th Anniversary! We will have a reception in the Narthex on April 21 after worship in celebration of this milestone! A larger, covered dish gathering is being planned for later this summer.

Ways to Serve

One Great Hour of Sharing: It's not too late to participate in 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. Special envelopes and flyers with more information are available in the Narthex.

Ways to Connect

Adult Faith Enrichment Class: Join us for Adult Faith Formation at 9:00 a.m. in the Session Room or on Zoom. Our new study is *Journey of Faith* with Milt Seapker. 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 April 19.) Our study is titled "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts." For more information and questions: cj2hill@bellsouth.net or 321-431-5333.

Join us for a reception in honor of Maryrose Beerman in the Narthex after worship today. We are sad to say Maryrose and Ted are moving to Indiana at the end of April so April 28 will be her last Sunday with us. We are so grateful to Maryrose for serving as our Music Director, Organist, Pianist, Handbell Director, and Preschool Pianist over these past 6 years! Ted has graciously filled in as guest vocalist and stepped up to direct the choir for special events. We will miss these two greatly and wish them all the best in their new ventures!

We also give a huge Thank You to Joyce Walker for sharing her talent with us! Joyce will be leaving soon for the summer; we look forward to her joining us again when she returns this fall.

Church Directory: We have set the date of June 1 to print a new official MIPC directory! There are interim directory copies in the Narthex; please check to make sure your contact information is correct, and contact the church office if there are any changes. There will be opportunities for new individual and family photos if you would like your picture updated - but you can also email the church office with a photo of you/your family that you would like us to use. (mipresbyterian@gmail.com) Thank you for helping keep our church directory information updated!

Celebrations & Concerns

Happy Birthday to:

April 7: Andre Koodie
April 10: Gloria Burk
April 11: Ashleigh Serfozo
April 12: Pat Smith
April 13: Bunny Finney

Happy Anniversary to:

April 7: Bob & Sandy Hill

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.*

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

THIS WEEK AT MIPC:

Monday, April 8, 1:00 PM	FFM, Session Room	Thurs. April 11, 6:00 PM:	Square Dancers, FH
Monday, April 8, 6:00 PM	Scouts, Fellowship Hall	Thurs., April 11, 7:00 PM:	Presbyterian Women Bible Study,
Tuesday, April 9, 3:00 PM:	Kids Klub, FH I	Sunday, April 14, 9:00 AM:	Adult Faith Formation, SR
Tuesday, April 9, 5:30 PM:	Preschool Meeting, Session Rm	Sunday, April 14, 10:00 AM:	Worship Service
Tuesday, April 9, 8:00 PM:	AA, Fellowship Hall	Sunday, April 14, 11:00 AM:	Christ the King Church service
Wed. April 10, 10:00 AM:	Heavenly Handmade, AR	Sunday, April 14, 3:00 PM	Girl Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Wed. April 10, 3:30 PM:	One Purpose, FH		

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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