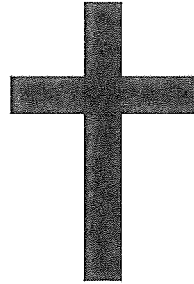


Lenten Service ~ March 16, 2016  
The Presbyterian Church on Edisto Island



**Call to Worship**

**Leader:** The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**People:** **Our God comes and does not keep silent.**

**Leader:** The humble one, God the Lord, serves, offering us his very life.

**People:** **Our God comes to take our place.**

**Leader:** The righteous one, God the Lord, reigns forever, giving us our life and purpose.

**People:** **Our God comes, mighty and humble, asking us to follow his righteousness by living his love.**

**Opening Prayer**

Surprising God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ you make all things new. Long ago you called your church to love beyond all social and cultural differences and gave them the gift of your Holy Spirit to open their hearts to enact such love. Give us that same spirit of openness, that we too might discern new directions in our day for your dream to reconcile and heal all creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Hymn #93**

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

Herzliebster Jesu

**God's Word to Us**

Matthew 16:21-28

Journey to the Cross:  
The Roman Cross

**Responsive Psalter of Confession and Penitence**

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits –**  
The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people Israel.

**The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Far as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

**As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; and he remembers that we are dust.**

As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

**But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.**

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

**Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

(In unison) **God of mercy, your command to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons, yet we often respond with fear and judgment that hinders your goal for humanity. Forgive our sins, we pray, and give us a true repentance that leads to life for all creation. We pray in Jesus' name...**

(Silence is kept)

#### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

God's promises are trustworthy and true; your sins are forgiven. Be at peace to serve the Lord, and may you always be known by your love.

**Amen.**

#### **Benediction and Blessing for the Meal**