

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON EDISTO ISLAND

March 8, 2017

Lenten Service  
"Stories of Stones"

6:00 PM

**Call to Worship**

*Leader: To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.*

**People: Teach us your ways, O Lord;  
show us your paths and lead us in your truth.**

*Leader: Trust in God, who will not put you to shame;  
be glad in the Lord and rejoice in God's justice.*

**People: Shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

**Unison Prayer**

**O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. So guide us, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

*Silent Confession*

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

*The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

**Hymn #93**

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

Herzliebster Jesu

**God's Word to Us**

Psalm 118  
Mark 12:1-9

*Rejected Stones*

**Lenten Litany**

*Leader: God's people were rescued from slavery in Egypt and wandered for forty years. They learned in the wilderness to depend on God alone for their most basic needs. They ate manna and drank water from the rock. As we begin our Lenten journey, let us give thanks and pray for God's gifts that bring us life. After each thanksgiving, we will keep a brief silence for reflection.*

Deuteronomy 8:3 "God humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that come from the mouth of the Lord."

**People: We give thanks, O God, for your Bread from Heaven.**

*Silence*

Psalm 139:9-10 "If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand will hold me fast."

**People: We give thanks, O God, for your Presence with us.**

*Silence*

Isaiah 54:10 “For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”

**People: We give thanks, O God, for your great Compassion.**

*Silence*

Psalms 103:10-12 “The Lord does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is the Lord’s steadfast love toward the faithful; as far as the east is from the west, so far does the Lord remove our transgressions.”

**People: We give thanks, O God, for your forgiveness.**

*Silence*

Revelation 22:1-2a “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.”

**People: We give thanks, O God, for your grace that leads us to eternal life through Jesus Christ.**

*Silence*

*Leader: God, our companion and guide, bless our journey of renewal and hope. Lead us together toward the celebration of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Grant us grace to be a community of love, bringing your word of life to the world you sent your Son to save. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

**Benediction and Blessing for the Meal**

### Discussion Questions

1. Jesus implied that he was rejected. “Rejected” is a strong word. Have you ever been rejected (job application, relationship, team, group, etc.)? What was that experience like for you?
2. In what ways do people reject God today?
3. Jesus asked this question at the end of the parable: “What will the vineyard owner do when he comes back?” Assuming that Jesus is the vineyard owner, how would you answer that question?