

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON EDISTO ISLAND

March 15, 2017

Lenten Service  
"Stories of Stones"

6:00 PM

**Call to Worship**

*Leader: One thing I ask of the Lord, that I will seek after:*

**People: I will dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and inquire in the Lord's temple.**

*Leader: Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage,*

**People: Wait for the Lord!**

**Unison Prayer**

God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness, and always ready to forgive. Grant us grace to renounce all evil and cling to Christ, that in every way we may prove to be your loving children; through Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

*Silent Confession*

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

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

**And also with you.**

**Hymn #92**

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

St. Christopher

**God's Word to Us**

John 8:1-12

*Sticks and Stones*

**Lenten Litany**

*Leader: God told Abraham to lift up his eyes and see the stars as a sign of God's promise. Abraham believed and his faith was counted as righteousness.*

**People: We lift up our eyes to the hills. Our help comes from the Lord.**

*Leader: Like Abraham we stand firm in our faith. Our faith is in God who raised Jesus from the dead.*

**People: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.**

*Leader: Jesus told his disciples that he would suffer greatly, be rejected and killed, and on the third day rise again.*

**People: We proclaim God's deliverance to future generations, saying "The Lord has done it!"**

*Leader: Jesus said to Nicodemus, "No one can see God's reign without being born from above. No one can enter God's reign without being born of water and the Spirit."*

**People: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?**

*Leader: Jesus invited Nicodemus to lift up his eyes to the cross, to see the Savior who descended to live among us, now ascended and exalted.*

**People: God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.**

*Leader: We too are invited to see Jesus, lifted upon the cross of suffering for the world, and lifted on high to reign in glory with God and the Holy Spirit.*

**People: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, for dominion belongs to the Lord who rules over the nations. Lift up your eyes.**

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

### Discussion Questions

1. There is more than one way to stone someone. In the context of where you spend most of your time (work, family, circle of friends, etc.) how do people "throw stones" at one another.
2. Who do you think was the most surprised at the words that Jesus spoke to the woman...the woman, the Pharisees, the disciples? Why?
3. Do we need people in the world like the Pharisees, who would make sure that the rest of us live and act properly? Who do you think functions in that capacity for you?