

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON EDISTO ISLAND

March 7, 2018

Lenten Service
Praying with the Psalms

6:00 PM

Call to Worship

*Leader: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!
Once we lived in darkness, but now...*

People: as children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.

Leader: Jesus, Light of the World,

People: give us eyes to see as you see!

***Hymn #85**

What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

Call to Confession

As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. God does not punish our sins with trials, but desires our genuine contrition. And so, we bring our confession to God so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

Prayer of Confession

Healing God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance, and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way... (time for silent confession)

Response from Psalm 51 to Tallis' Cannon

*Have mercy God in your great grace,
Wash me from every staining trace,
Of sin and evil I have done,
I pray to you the Holy One.*

Declaration of Forgiveness

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(please share the sign of peace with your neighbors)

Response from Psalm 51 to Tallis' Cannon

*Create O God within my heart
A path to make a fresh new start,
And shape a spirit within me
That steadfast, sure, and right will be.*

Prayer

Psalm

Psalm 19

Reflection

Rev. Marc Coker

Lenten Litany*

Leader: Glorious God,
your thoughts are not our thoughts,
neither are your ways our ways.
You look at the ugliest soul
and see, still unstirred,
the wings of an angel.

People: We scan the finest of our neighbors, anxious to find the flaw.

Leader: You view time in the context of eternity,
and so find a place for waiting, for yearning, even for suffering,
even for dying.

People: We demand instant results; and look for tomorrow before savoring today.

Leader: You know that only one who suffers can ultimately save,
that is why you walk the way of the cross.

People: We fear that vulnerability which defies our power; and so we cry for crucifixion.

Leader: Your thoughts are not our thoughts,

People: Neither are your ways our ways.

Leader: And yet we know that your way is the ladder to heaven, while,
left to our own devices, our ways slope downwards.
But we are here, not to have our worst confirmed, but to have our best liberated.

**People: So we pray,
Forgive us in what has gone wrong,
Repair in us what is wasted,
Reveal in us what is good.**

Leader: And nourish us with better food than we could ever purchase:
your word, your love, your inspiration,
your daily bread for our life's journey, in the company of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Benediction and Blessing for the Meal

*Lenten Litany used with permission from "Stages on the Way" Resources for Lent – Iona Community, GIA Publications.