



First Presbyterian Church
Palm Sunday
April 5, 2009

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street, Cumberland, MD 21502
301-777-3700 ☞ fpc-cumberland.org

Coming Together in Christ

10:55 AM MEDITATION (Please pause in quiet preparation for worship.)

11:00 AM CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Hornpipe* G. F. Handel

INTROIT *Hosanna in Excelsis* (Hosanna in the highest) Taize

Entering God's Presence

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118: 26, 27

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

People: The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

* HYMN OF PRAISE #88 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* "Valet will ich dir geben"
(The children will process at this time)

THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

SILENCE

AMEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (together)

You, you giver! You have given light and life to the world; you have given freedom from Pharaoh to your people Israel; you have given your only son for the sake of the world; you have given yourself to us; you have given and forgiven, and you remember our sin no more. And we, in response, are takers: we take eagerly what you give us; we take from our neighbors near at hand as is acceptable; we take from our unseen greedily and acquisitively; we take from our weak neighbors thoughtlessly; we take all that we can lay our hands on. It dawns on us that our taking does not match your giving. In this Lenten season revise our taking, that it may be grateful and disciplined, even as you give in ways generous and overwhelming. Amen.
—Walter Brueggemann

KYRIE ELEISON (Congregation & Choir) #574, The Hymnal

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

THE DECLARATION OF PARDON

John Dillon

* THE RESPONSE IN PRAISE

#579, The Hymnal

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

One Great Hour of Sharing

Hearing God's Word

TIME FOR CHILDREN

* HYMN OF PREPARATION #100

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

"Rockingham"

THE LESSON:

Mark 6:1-6, 11:1-11

Pew Bible p. 38

THE ANTHEM

Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs

G. F. Handel

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:
he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:
the chastisement of our peace was upon him.

THE SERMON

"The Point of No Return"

Rev. John Dillon

Our Response to God's Love

* THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judges their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over and death for all.

—Section 9.08, *The Confession of 1967*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Please partake of the communion elements as you receive them.)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

Seven-Fold Amen

Peter Lutkin

WORSHIPPING THE LORD THROUGH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY SOLO

Pie Jesu

Gabriel Faure

Blessed Jesu, Lord, I pray in thy mercy grant them eternal rest.

Blessed Jesu, Lord, I pray in thy mercy grant them everlasting rest.

* THE DOXOLOGY

#592, The Hymnal

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God, above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

* THE HYMN OF PARTING #91

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

“St. Drostané”

* SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.)

* SUNG BENEDICTION

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Dennis

(Please join hands as we sing the Benediction)

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love:

The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

Going Forth in God’s Love

* THE POSTLUDE

Postlude on “St. Theodulph”

Alec Wyton

* Those who wish to do so are invited to stand

Music Notes

The music for this morning reflects the triumphant palm-strewn entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the Passion of our Lord. “Hosanna” is a two-part canon with handbells in the Taize tradition. Sung in the universal language of Latin, the bells and voices ring forth the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem. “Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs” is a familiar chorus from the Lenten/Passion section of Handel’s beloved “Messiah.” Less than two minutes in length, this short powerful statement of Isaiah 53: 4,5 paints the impending road to Calvary. “Pie Jesu” by Gabriel Faure is probably the most familiar setting of this text. Taken from his “Requiem,” this beautiful, ethereal solo transports the human soul to the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

Statement of Purpose

Our Church exists to worship God and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Spirit, we shall serve God's Kingdom by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

Statement of Vision

We embrace open and progressive theology. Through education, training, worship and Session leadership we will realize our vision both individually and in community. We will be open to new ideas and programs while staying true to our beliefs and traditions. We will commit our personal and corporate resources to embody our Statement of Purpose. We will live our lives responsibly with honesty and integrity.

About the Affirmation of Faith

The PC (USA) Book of Confessions is a collection of Confessions from the church in many ages and many different situations. Therefore, its expressions of faith cover a multitude of theological opinions, many of which are obviously influenced by who participated in their preparation and the times and customs of their era. While not necessarily agreeing with every statement precisely, our Ministers, Elders, and Deacons swear to be guided by its principles and truths. We select a passage from one of these Confessions each month to experience and explore the breadth and depth of our heritage.

Continuing our exploration of the Confessions, in April we will be using an extract from the Confession of 1967. The Book of Confessions Study Edition prefaces "The Confession of 1967" with the following explanation:

"The church confesses its faith when it bears a present witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ. In every age, the church has expressed its witness in words and deeds as the need of the time required. Confessions and declarations are subordinate standards... No one type of confession is exclusively valid, no one statement is irreformable. Obedience to Jesus Christ alone identifies the one universal church and supplies the continuity of its tradition..."

"The purpose of the Confession of 1967 is to call the church to that unity in confession and mission which is required of disciples today. This Confession is not a "system of doctrine", nor does it include all the traditional topics of theology. For example, the Trinity and the Person of Christ are not redefined, but are recognized and reaffirmed as forming the basis and determining the structure of the Christian faith."

What's Happening This Week:



SUNDAY, APRIL (5) Palm Sunday

9:00 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages
10:15 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Coffee Hour in the Kitchen
10:30 AM Children Present Rotation Projects in
The Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM Worship Service, Palm Sunday,
Children's Parade, Cents-Ability Collection
Moment for Mission, On the Air WCBC

MONDAY, APRIL (6)

9:00 AM Church Office Open
9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School
7:00 PM 200th Anniversary Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL (7)

9:00 AM Church Office Open
9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School

WEDNESDAY, APRIL (8)

9:00 AM Church Office Open
9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School
6:15 PM JoyBells Rehearsal
7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL (9) Maundy Thursday

9:00 AM Church Office Open
9:00 AM Learning Tree Nursery School
7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Service

FRIDAY, APRIL (10) Good Friday

9:00 AM Church Office Open
NO Learning Tree Nursery School

SATURDAY, APRIL (11)

10:00 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, APRIL (12) Easter Sunday

7:00 AM Sunrise Service at Rocky Gap State Park
9:00 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM Intergenerational Easter Event in the
Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM Coffee Hour in the Kitchen
11:00 AM Worship Service, Easter Sunday,
OGHS Offering Accepted, On the Air WCBC