



Service for the Lord's Day

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 15, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Please SILENCE ALL Personal Electronic Devices Before Worship.

We Gather as God's People

Welcome to our worship service. Take a moment to quiet yourself as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Welcome to Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church! In this space, we invite you to bring all of who you are - your identity, your beliefs, your doubts, your story. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence. We invite you to sign the pew pads, which will be passed from the back of the sanctuary to the front. Please fill out the information, share with the others in your row, and then pass it to the row in front of you. Thank you. After worship, please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Prelude

Announcements of Our Church Life and Ministry

The Centering Song *SF* # 2164 (sing 3 times; the last time, a cappella) "Sanctuary"

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Call to Worship [Responsive] Jenine Spack

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves: That it is not we who chose Christ,

People: but Christ who chose us,

Leader: That we are not here because of our goodness,

People: but because of Christ's grace,

Leader: That we are not here to enlighten ourselves,

People: but to allow Christ to enlighten us,

Leader: That we have not come to be entertained,

People: but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

***The Opening Hymn** *PH* # 411 "Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

***The Prayer of the Day** [Responsive] Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Leader: Let us pray: When we are blinded by anger, you pour out your love for all to see;

* Please stand as you are able.

when we wonder what tomorrow will bring, you call us to trust in you; when sadness fills our hearts, you plant gladness in our hearts.

People: God of Easter: touch us with your grace.

Leader: You show us your hands, so we may reach out to mend the broken; you show us your feet, so we may walk with those the world passes by; you show us your face, so we may know who our sisters and brothers look like.

People: Risen Christ: touch us with your compassion.

Leader: You open our eyes, so we may see God's love; you open our minds, so we may welcome God's Word; you open our lips, so we may be God's witnesses.

People: Spirit of Hope: touch us with your peace. Amen.

***Two+** (A new way to share the peace of Christ and greet one another.)

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

Question: What is your favorite breakfast food?

We Listen for God's Word

The Children's Message Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Blessing: You are God's beloved child. With you God is well pleased.

Prayer for Illumination Jenine Spack

Leader: Let us pray... Jesus, you explained the scriptures and revealed yourself to the disciples on the beach after a night of fishing.

People: Now, by your Spirit, enlighten our minds to understand their witness and ignite our hearts to receive you in your word read and proclaimed. Amen.

Building the Bridge from Locked Doors to a Night of Fishing

The Scripture John 21:1-25 Readers Theatre (see insert)
(pages 115-116 N.T.)

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

People: We give thanks to God.

The Sermon Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

... musical interlude for quiet personal reflection...

We Respond to God's Love

***Affirmation of Faith** [In Unison] from Reclaiming Jesus:

A Confession of Faith in A Time of Crisis

WE BELIEVE each human being is made in God's image and likeness. That image and likeness confers a divinely decreed dignity, worth, and God-given equality to all of us as children of the one God who is the Creator of all things. Racial bigotry is a brutal denial of the image of God in some of the children of God. Our participation in the global community of Christ absolutely prevents any toleration of racial bigotry. Racial justice and healing are

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biblical and theological issues for us, and are central to the mission of the body of Christ in the world. We give thanks for the prophetic role of the historic black churches in America when they have called for a more faithful gospel.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT the resurgence of white nationalism and racism in our nation on many fronts, including the highest levels of political leadership. We, as followers of Jesus, must clearly reject the use of racial bigotry for political gain that we have seen. In the face of such bigotry, silence is complicity. In particular, we reject white supremacy and commit ourselves to help dismantle the systems and structures that perpetuate white preference and advantage. Further, any doctrines or political strategies that use racist resentments, fears, or language must be named as public sin— one that goes back to the foundation of our nation and lingers on. Racial bigotry must be antithetical for those belonging to the body of Christ, because it denies the truth of the gospel we profess.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People [Responsive] Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Leader: We pray to the Lord... *People:* Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer (*using ‘debts’ and ‘debtors’...*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response PH #322 “Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory Music

***Offertory Response** Sing the Faith # 2036 “Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”; let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.” And now let the weak say, “I am strong”; let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.” Give thanks!

***Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving** [In Unison]Jenine Spack

God of Heaven and Earth, you call us to leave behind our preoccupations and to follow you into the future. Sometimes we find your call challenging. We are comfortable, maybe even complacent, in our present. May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

* Please stand as you are able.

We Depart to Do God's Will

***Closing Hymn** *PH* # 387..... “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

***The Sending** [Responsive]..... Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Leader: Christ asks if we love him? If we say yes, he says; “Then care for one another.” This is our opportunity to make a difference, to live lovingly and courageously in the world around us.

People: **We cannot promise to do it perfectly, but we can give it a go, relying on Christ's abundant wisdom to take our small love, and fit it into a larger pattern of good for all creation.**

Leader: May God bless the world in which you move, and bless your home and bless your friends. May God bless the eyes with which you see, and bless the ears with which you listen. May God bless the way you use your hands, bless the way you employ your words. And may the grace, mercy and peace be yours, today and always.

People: Amen!

***Song of Dismissal** *PH* # 432 “Canto de Esperanza”

**May the God of hope go with us every day, Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way, Bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new, Faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

Postlude



The liturgy this morning is from: Call to Worship and The Sending ~ written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home page <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>; Prayer of the Day ~ Lectionary Liturgies - Rev. Thom Shuman; Prayer for Illumination ~ from a collection of prayers posted on the Worship@North web; Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving ~ posted on the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan <http://www.umfmichigan.org/offerprayers.html>.

Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis

We are living through perilous and polarizing times as a nation, with a dangerous crisis of moral and political leadership at the highest levels of our government and in our churches. We believe the soul of the nation and the integrity of faith are now at stake. It is time to be followers of Jesus before anything else—nationality, political party, race, ethnicity, gender, geography—our identity in Christ precedes every other identity. We pray that our nation will see Jesus' words in us. “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). When politics undermines our theology, we must examine that politics. The church's role is to change the world through the life and love of Jesus Christ. The government's role is to serve the common good by protecting justice and peace, rewarding good behavior while restraining bad behavior (Romans 13). When that role is undermined by political leadership, faith leaders must stand up and speak out. Rev.

* Please stand as you are able.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state.” It is often the duty of Christian leaders, especially elders, to speak the truth in love to our churches and to name and warn against temptations, racial and cultural captivities, false doctrines, and political idolatries—and even our complicity in them. We do so here with humility, prayer, and a deep dependency on the grace and Holy Spirit of God. This letter comes from a retreat on Ash Wednesday, 2018. In this season of Lent, we feel deep lamentations for the state of our nation, and our own hearts are filled with confession for the sins we feel called to address. The true meaning of the word repentance is to turn around. It is time to lament, confess, repent, and turn. In times of crisis, the church has historically learned to return to Jesus Christ. Jesus is Lord. That is our foundational confession. It was central for the early church and needs to again become central to us. If Jesus is Lord, then Caesar was not—nor any other political ruler since. If Jesus is Lord, no other authority is absolute. Jesus Christ, and the kingdom of God he announced, is the Christian’s first loyalty, above all others. We pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). Our faith is personal but never private, meant not only for heaven but for this earth. The question we face is this: Who is Jesus Christ for us today? What does our loyalty to Christ, as disciples, require at this moment in our history? We believe it is time to renew our theology of public discipleship and witness. Applying what “Jesus is Lord” means today is the message we commend as elders to our churches. What we believe leads us to what we must reject. Our “Yes” is the foundation for our “No.” What we confess as our faith leads to what we confront. Therefore, we offer the following six affirmations of what we believe, and the resulting rejections of practices and policies by political leaders which dangerously corrode the soul of the nation and deeply threaten the public integrity of our faith. We pray that we, as followers of Jesus, will find the depth of faith to match the danger of our political crisis.

Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church is committed to using language in such a way that all members of the community of faith may recognize themselves to be included, addressed, and equally cherished before God. Seeking to bear witness to the whole world, the church struggles to use language which is faithful to the biblical truth and which neither purposefully nor inadvertently excludes people because of gender, color, or other circumstance in life. (Book of Order, W-1.2006)

Everyone is invited to stay for fellowship and refreshment following worship today.

- Our liturgist today is Jenine Spack.
- Our musician today is Marian Korth
- Our ushers/greeters today are Larry & Sylvia Jensen.
- **Nursery care is provided today by the Deacons.**
- Printed copies of sermons are available in the box on the wall outside of the church office and on our website www.OCPChurch.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS —

- **First quarter giving statements are now available in Fellowship Hall. Please pick up your copy and take it with you. Thank you!**

- If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter, *The Good News*, please send either your email (preferred) or snail mail address to the church office. (Our addresses are listed on the last page of the bulletin.)
 - **The Mission Committee reminds all folks to share their loose change in the Least Coin Crock, as a reminder of the prayers they say. Think of all the coins we would have if every time you prayed, you set aside a coin. These funds are to be used for local mission work. This is a year-long mission collection.**
- Help us save “pig points.” Please turn in your receipts from Piggly Wiggly in the brown bag in the narthex, so that we can receive a rebate. All funds received are used for mission projects. **The next deadline for receipts is Sunday, June 10.**
- Copies of *These Days*, a daily devotional magazine, are available at the rear entrance. Donations are voluntary.

EVENTS —

- Today after worship – Children’s Library Open – Last day for check-out.
 - Deacons
 - Noon – Book Study of “A Prayer for Owen Meany”
 - Next Sunday, April 22 – 9:00 a.m. Children’s Library Open – Returns only
 - 10:00 a.m. Worship and Sunday School
 - 11:00 a.m. Last day Children’s Library open – Returns only
- **VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY —**
 - Liturgist – Cathy Thiltgen
 - Ushers/Greeters – OPEN
 - Fellowship – Kari & Trent Bettenhausen; Sue & Derek Bettenhausen
 - Nursery – Deacons



MARCH 2018 Update

Thank you to all who continue to support the Cambridge Food Pantry through donations and volunteer time. Your time and dedication to the Pantry is appreciated! Interested in volunteering? Register online at the CAP website – www.cambridgecap.net and click on volunteerism tab then go to volunteerism Cambridge Food Pantry volunteer opportunities and then hit volunteer sign up. Anyone without internet access can also sign up by calling the Pantry at 423-8142.

The Cambridge Food Pantry & Resource Center is open for shopping every Monday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Guests are invited to shop every other Monday. The Cambridge Food Pantry is located under the blue canopy at the Nikolay Middle School, 211 South Street.

FOOD AND OTHER ITEMS NEEDED AT CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY

The Cambridge Food Pantry could use the following items---Toilet Paper, Ketchup, Mustard, Jellies or Jam, Snack Chips, Cereal, Hearty Soups, Canned Ravioli, Pancake Syrup

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Sandy Berge (sister of Charleen Janus)
Ken Bilstad
Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strohmusch)
David Gunnulson
Don Hawkins (husband of Margaret)
Jayne Kilian (daughter of Judy & Monty Pearson)
Scott Kramer family (friends of Charlie Porter)
Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)
Richard Nye (son-in-law of Ann & Dale Febock, Tara's husband, deploying to Iraq)
Andy Schieffer (Rose Ann West's nephew-in-law)
Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)
Joan Spaulding (former member Ralph Spaulding's wife)
Mary Trailer
Betty Willmore
Jim Willmore

Our children and unchurched children and families, our military around the world, our enemies, our church leaders, families and individuals experiencing financial, job-hunting, health, or relationship problems.

The family of Rosemary Mandli (Jerry Mandli's mother—family Karin, Jake, Conner, Matthew and Luke); Jim Fergusson (Nancy Kristiansen's brother); Egil Kristiansen (Jan Kristiansen's brother); Carl Martin (Meg's husband Bob Stilling's uncle); Lawrence Janus (Charleen's husband); Corinne Hommen (mother of Kris Runge), and other families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

Church Schedule

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday

Communion: First Sunday of each month

Church School: Children through grade 7 meet at 10:00 a.m. Sunday
(Labor Day to Memorial Day)

Video of Worship Service: Cable 98 or 987 Sun. 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Tues. 8 a.m. & Noon
(Link to video also available on our website or Facebook page)

Fellowship & Refreshment: Following worship service each week

Pastoral Office Hours: Generally 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Tuesday or by appointment

Business Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday

(Church hours are approved by Session and posted on church entry doors.)

Telephone/Fax: 608-423-3001

Email: Office@OCPChurch.com or Pastor@OCPChurch.com

Web: www.OCPChurch.com

Mailing Address: 313 E. Main St., Cambridge, WI 53523-9629



Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

SESSION (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2018: Mark Touhey

Class of 2019: Mare Stewart, Mike Stitz

Class of 2020: Ann Febock, Renée Roland Johnson,

BOARD OF DEACONS (Meets the third Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2018: Julie Anderson, Judy Schroeder

Class of 2019: Linda Porter

Class of 2020: Randy Johnson, Judy Pearson

CHURCH STAFF

Music—

Accompanists: Marian Korth, Angie Williams

Business Manager: Ruth Poole

Pastor: Pastor Scott Marrese-Wheeler: (608) 417-0231 cell;

Pastor@OCPChurch.com Facebook: Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Follow Rev. Scott on Twitter: @2revsScott

