



# Service for the Lord's Day

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 24, 2019

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] ..... Megan Meier

*Leader:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*Leader:* Out of a world of cut-throat competition, of winners-and-losers, and too many left behind, we are invited by God to gather together at the banquet of grace.

**People:** The world's ways are not our ways. The world's ways are not Christ's ways.

*Leader:* Out of a world of hatred, violence, individualism, and life-taking power we gather as God's people to heal and to hope, to share and to celebrate.

**People:** God's ways are inclusive, expansive, generous and life-giving for all peoples.

*Leader:* Come and worship the One whose love holds us accountable and yet, knows no limits!

**People:** Praise be to the Everlasting One!

**\*Opening Hymn** PH # 487 ..... "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

## **\*The Prayer of the Day [Responsive]**

*Leader:* Let us pray... Eternal God, you are our only hope, our sure help in time of trouble. In all times and places you alone are our strength and stay. Because we trust in you, we dare to believe:

**People: Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; hope is stronger than despair.**

*Leader:* Although often lost in grief and overwhelmed by fear and anger, we hear your call to firmer faith and deeper trust. In the midst of doubt and fear you call us to be a people of prayer. Help us, O Lord, to place our confidence in you as we pray for all who have lost loved ones, those traumatized by memories and images they cannot forget, those who are paralyzed by fear, those who seek to do us harm, the leaders of nations, people of other faiths who are our neighbors here and around your world.

**People: Hear us, O Lord, and teach us to pray, for you alone are our refuge and strength.**

*Leader:* O God, true source of wholeness and peace, in a world bearing fresh wounds of suffering and grief, you call us to be a people of healing.

**People: Help us to reach out to neighbors in need, to bear one another's burdens, to weep with those who weep.**

*Leader:* Give us the grace to share the comfort of Christ with all those who long for his healing touch. Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your present love.

**People: Hear us, O Lord, and help us to heal, for you alone are our refuge and strength.**

*Leader:* Strong God of love, in a world torn by violence and threatened by revenge and hatred, you call us to be a people of love.

**People: Give us the strength to love even when love is most difficult.**

*Leader:* Save us from the desire for vengeance, and from the temptation to rejoice in wrongdoing. So fill us with the love of Christ that we might seek the good for all people.

**People: Do not let us be overcome by evil, but help us overcome evil with good.**

*Leader:* Hear us, O Lord, and show us how to love, for you alone are our refuge and strength.

**People: God of truth and light, in a world of darkness you call us to bear witness to your light.**

*Leader:* Guide us by your Spirit, that we might reflect the glory of your Son in his courage in speaking the truth,

**People: in his compassion for others,**

*Leader:* in his willingness to bear suffering,

**People: in his refusal to return evil for evil.**

*Leader:* Hear us, O Lord, and guide our witness,

**People: for you alone are our refuge and strength.**

*Leader:* Almighty and ever-faithful God, in a world of despair,

**People: you call us to be a people of hope.**

*Leader:* When we are cast down or dismayed,

**People: keep your Spirit alive in us.**

*Leader:* Grant us faith to look forward with confidence to that day when the whole world will be drawn into willing obedience to your reign

**People:** and people will come from east and west, from north and south, to sit at the table together in your kingdom.

*Leader:* Hear us, O Lord, and fill us with hope,

**People:** for you alone are our refuge and strength.

*Leader:* You, O Lord, are our refuge and strength, our help in time of trouble. Help us to hold in our hearts and show in our lives

**People:** what we proclaim with our lips: Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; hope is stronger than despair. 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 thing at a wedding reception?

## **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** [Responsive]..... Megan Meier

*Leader:* Let us pray... God of celebration, you have invited all people to rejoice in the goodness of your love.

**People:** Help us to be welcoming and hospitable to all people at Your banquet, so that all might know of and receive your blessing of grace. Amen..

## **Building a Bridge through the Gospel of Matthew**

**The Scripture**                      Matthew 22:1-14                      Readers Theatre (*see insert*)

**Sermon** .....Rev. Scott Marrese Wheeler

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

## **We Respond to God’s Love**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** [Responsive] .....from *A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)*

*Leader:* In life and in death we belong to God.

**People:** We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God.

*Leader:* Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

**People:** Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world..

*Leader:* God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

**ALL:** With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

\* Please stand as you are able.

## 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 of Our Tithes and Our 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** [Responsive] ..... Megan Meier

*Leader:* Almighty God, who made us who we are, we offer all of ourselves to You.

*People:* Take our talents, our energy and our joy, and use us to share Your love. Take our mistakes, our regrets and our pain, and use us to bring Your healing. Magnify the gifts we offer before You today, to spread Your peace in the world. Amen.

## **We Depart to Do God's Will**

**\*Closing Hymn** *PH* # 343..... "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

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

*Leader:* Go forth, strengthened to do the work of Christ, standing in the gap, extending the invitation to the eternal banquet, rejoicing in God. Let your gentleness be known to everyone and don't worry about anything. The God who created you, the Christ who redeems you and the Spirit who empowers you is with you today and ever more. Go in peace sharing the generous love of Christ with all people. And all God's people said:

*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 ~ written by Tim Graves, and posted on LiturgyBits; The Prayer of the Day ~ Litany for the Church in Time of Tragedy – Reformed Church in America; Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving ~ submitted by Gill Le Fevre; The Sending ~ from *Standing in the Gap*, written by Rev. Dr. Bob Gross, OCC, pastor at Lake Avenue United Church of Christ, Elyria, OH.

*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 Megan Meier.
- Our musician today is Karen Brunk.
- Our ushers/greeters today are Dale & Ann Febock.
- **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](http://www.OCPChurch.com).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS —**

- 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.
- 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.
- Next Sunday, March 31, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – 10:00 a.m. Worship

## VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY —

- Liturgist – Julie Anderson
- Ushers/Greeters – Mike & Cheryl Stitz
- Fellowship – Kari & Trent Bettenhausen; Sue & Derek Bettenhausen
- Nursery – Deacons

**BLUE JAY BACKPACK COLLECTION:** There are 75 students currently receiving weekend food through the Blue Jay Backpack food program. **We are being asked EACH MONTH to collect 75 of each of the following items: microwaveable ravioli and/or spaghetti bowls/cups AND low sugar fruit cups and/or applesauce.** These should be non-refrigerated. You can also make a financial donation to OCPC. If you are interested in helping with this collection, we could use a volunteer or two to shop for these items if we receive some financial gifts towards them.

**MISSION CHALLENGE FOR OCPC:** Hunger is a daily issue in our schools. The number of children and youth facing food scarcity at home continues to increase while federal funding for school lunch (and breakfast programs) face further government cuts. The Blue Jay Backpack Program currently only provides food to 75 K-12 graders once a month. It is hoped that over this year that the program can begin to meet the needs on a weekly basis. Many schools have begun food pantries in the school building. McFarland High School, where Pastor Scott works, has one. The hope would be that Cambridge School District working with the Food Pantry with the support of the local churches and community groups could also have food pantries in the middle and high school. To do this, more volunteers and financial gifts would be needed. This is a local mission we as a congregation should support with our donations and also with volunteers.



## MARCH 2019 Update

**Thank you** to all who continue to support the Cambridge Food Pantry through donations and volunteer time. We are currently serving an average of 29 to 30 families every Monday evening. Your time and dedication to the Pantry is appreciated

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. Donation/office hours

Monday 9 am to 12 pm, Wednesday 9 am – 12 pm and Thursday 8 am to 3 pm. The Cambridge Food Pantry is located under the blue canopy at the Nikolay Middle School, 211 South Street, telephone number 423-8142. Donations may also be dropped off at Nikolay Middle School Office, during school hours 7:45 am to 3:45 pm, Monday thru Friday.

### **FOOD AND OTHER ITEMS NEEDED AT CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY**

The Cambridge Food Pantry could use the following items--- Ketchup, Mustard, Snack Chips, Crackers, Cereal, Tuna, Sugar, Size 5 diapers, Toilet Tissue, Shampoo and Conditioner

**CAP WEDNESDAY SENIOR MEAL:** Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> CAP Senior Meal, noon, at the Amundson Center Community Room, Entertainment: Hellen Keller (actress) sponsored by the Library, Menu: Pizza, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert. RSVP (608) 423-8045 by April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> CAP Senior Meal, noon at the Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church, 313 Main Street, Bingo, Menu: Broccoli Cheese Soup, Chili, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Dessert RSVP 423-8045 by April 22<sup>nd</sup>.



**Community Café** – Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> is the next Cambridge Community Café! Join the Cambridge FFA and Cambridge 4-H Club who will be serving Taco Bar with all the trimmings (Hamburger and Chicken) with Soft Tacos and Taco Chips, Fruit, and Desserts. Meal will be served 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm at the Cambridge High School.

### **PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —**

Linda Bagley Korth  
Judy Brandt  
Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strohbusch)  
Don Hawkins (husband of Margaret Hawkins)  
Linda Johnson (mother of Randy Johnson)  
Jayne Kilian (daughter of Judy & Monty Pearson)  
Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)  
Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)  
John “Jack” Swank and his family (birth father of Renee Roland Johnson)

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 Joan Spaulding, 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Office@OCPChurch.com) or [Pastor@OCPChurch.com](mailto:Pastor@OCPChurch.com)

**Web:** [www.OCPChurch.com](http://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 2019: Mare Stewart, Mike Stitz

Class of 2020: Ann Febock, Renée Roland Johnson,

Class of 2021: Melanie Rumpf

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

Class of 2019: Joe Leto

Class of 2020: Randy Johnson, Judy Pearson

Class of 2021: Judy Schroeder, Cheryl Stitz

### **CHURCH STAFF**

#### **Music—**

**Accompanists:** Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Emily Rausch,  
Angie Williams

**Business Manager:** Ruth Poole

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

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