



Service for the Lord's Day

4th Sunday in Lent

March 31, 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] Deacon Julie Anderson

Leader: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Leader: In this season of Lent, we gather this day to worship our God,

***People:* whose words and ways challenge us.**

Leader: God invites us to lose our selfishness

***People:* to find our ourselves open to Christ's ways.**

Leader: God calls us to be fools in the world

***People:* to show forth the wisdom of Christ.**

Leader: God urges us to empty ourselves

***People:* to discover life's fullness.**

Leader: God bids us to be obedient to a divine will

***People:* so we might know true freedom.**

* Please stand as you are able.

Leader: We come to worship our Creator,

People: seeking to have our faith challenged so we might more fully live out Christ's ways.

Leader: We root our faith in worship seeking

People: to find nourishment for our spirits in this growing season of Lent.

***Opening Hymn** *PH* # 420 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

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

Leader: Let us pray... We stand at the crossing, Holy God, arms, hearts, souls full of the burdens the gods of this world have placed on us.

People: You remove them, throw them to one side, taking us by the hand to lead us into your kingdom.

Leader: As we turn to you in our despair, Holy One,

People: you come and fill our emptiness with the holy oil of your compassion, so we might always be ready to serve those who we meet along our life's journey.

Leader: Holy Wisdom, you would not leave us uninformed of God's love for us, so you whisper in our ears of wonders beyond imagination;

People: you remove the blindfolds from our eyes so we may behold the grace flowing all around us;

Leader: you open our hearts to the abundance

People: of grace and compassion God has given us.

Leader: May our hearts and lives be transformed by your compassion,

People: that we will risk of ourselves, sharing Your abundant grace with all people as you shared it with us. 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: Besides the bride or groom, have you ever been in a wedding? If so, in what capacity?

We Listen for God's Word

The Children's MessageRev. Scott Marrese Wheeler

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

Prayer for Illumination [Responsive]..... Deacon Julie Anderson

Leader: Let us pray... God, you speak to us in parables, so we might pay careful attention to your words.

People: In our hearing of the kingdom stories Jesus told, fill us with the holy oil of generosity and grace, and make us ready to welcome the Christ in all whom we meet so we might be open to share and serve others in your name. Amen.

Building a Bridge through the Gospel of Matthew

The Scripture Matthew 25:1-30 Readers Theatre (*see insert*)

SermonRev. Scott Marrese Wheeler

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

* Please stand as you are able.

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.**

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.

Moment for Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing

Deacon Cheryl Stitz

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] Deacon Julie Anderson

Leader: Let us pray... God, whose giving knows no ending, we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us;

People: **we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us; we offer up ourselves in service and praise. Receive these gifts by your grace. Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish Christ’s work of love in the world. Amen.**

We Depart to Do God’s Will

***Closing Hymn** *PH* # 411..... “Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

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

Leader: Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ, there are blessings meant for you to hold onto clutched like a lifeline, carried, like a candle for a dark way, tucked into a pocket like a smooth stone reminding you that you do not go alone. This blessing is not those. This blessing will find its form only as you give it away only as you release it into the keeping of another only as you let it leave you bearing the shape, the imprint the grace it will take only for having passed through your two particular hands. Go therefore, transformed by the grace of God to share that grace and compassion with all whom you meet.

People: **We go in peace, to offer the abundant grace of God with all whom we meet.**

Leader: 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 ~ Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship; edited by Ruth Duck; The Prayer of the Day ~ Lectionary Liturgies by Rev. Thom Shuman; Prayer for Illumination ~ Lectionary Liturgies (adapted) Rev. Thom Shuman; Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving ~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on the **Spacious Faith** blog; The Sending ~ written by Jan L. Richardson and posted on The Painted Prayerbook. (adapted).

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 Deacon Julie Anderson.
- Our musician today is Marian Korth.
- Our ushers/greeters today are Mike & Cheryl Stitz.
- **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 —

- 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 —

- Next Sunday, April 7, 5th Sunday in Lent – 9:00 a.m. Children’s Library Open
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
- 11:00 a.m. Children’s Library Open

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY —

- Liturgist – OPEN
- Ushers/Greeters – Virgil & Kris Runge
- Fellowship – Cheryl Stitz
- 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 OCP. 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 10th 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 8th.

Wednesday, April 24th 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 22nd.



Community Café – Thursday, April 4th 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. 2nd and 4th 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 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;

Pastor@OCPChurch.com Facebook: Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Follow Rev. Scott on Twitter: @2revsScott

