



# Service for the Lord's Day

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

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 questions, and your story wherever you are on your journey in life. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence.

**The Gathering Music** ..... "The Wayfaring Stranger" arr. Lee Evans

**The Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** ..... "God So Loved the World"

**Call to Worship** [Responsive]

*One:* The Peace of Christ be with you.

**Many:** And also with you.

*One:* I lift my eyes up to the mountains, from where does my help come?

**Many:** My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

*One:* We look not to the mountains or valleys, even heaven or earth,

**Many:** For God is found among us.

*One:* Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name,

**Many:** God is here among us.

*One:* Come, let us worship the God of Creation, the God of People, the God of Community.

**Many:** Let us follow Jesus along the road of sorrow that leads to new life.

*One:* Let us worship together in faith.

**The Opening Hymn** PH # 80 ..... "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, He had to walk it by Himself;

O, nobody else could walk it for Him, He had to walk it by Himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley, We have to walk it by ourselves;

O, nobody else can walk it for us, We have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial, You have to stand it by yourself,

O, nobody else can stand it for you, You have to stand it by yourself.

## **The Opening Prayer** [Responsive]

*One:* Let us pray... God of abundant mercy, you have given us grace to pray with one heart and one voice,

**Many:** **even though our hearts are broken and our voices tremble with grief and sorrow.**

*One:* Comfort, comfort, Lord, your Holy people.

**Many:** **Comfort those of us who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath our sorrow's load.**

*One:* Speak to us of the peace that awaits us,

**Many:** **of the balm of healing for our weary and wounded souls.**

*One:* We ask all this, trusting in the promise you have made to hear the prayers of two or three

**Many:** **or those of few of us who have gathered in the Name of Christ Jesus. 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:** **“Where is the most difficult place you have ever had to leave?”**

## **We Listen for God’s Word**

### **The Prayer for Illumination** [Responsive]

*One:* Let us pray... God, you reach into our lives not through instruction, but story.

**Many:** **Open our hearts to be attentive: that seeing, we may perceive, and hearing, we may understand, and understanding, may act upon your word, that still lives and speaks to us. Amen.**

### **The Scripture**

Genesis 12:1-4

YHWH said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people, and the home of your parents, and go to a place I will show you. I will make of you a great people. I will bless you and make your name so great that it will be used in blessings. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you. And all the people on the face of the earth will be blessed through you.” Abram, who was 75 years old when he left Haran, began the journey as YHWH had instructed, and his nephew Lot went with them. Abram took Sarai his spouse, Lot, all their possessions, and all the dependents they acquired in Haran, and set out for Canaan.

John 3:1-17

A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. “Rabbi,” he said, “we know you’re a teacher come from God, for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God.” Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer: “The truth of the matter is, unless one is born from above, one cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said, “How can an adult be born a second time? I can’t go back into my mother’s womb to be born again!” Jesus replied: “The truth of the matter is, no one can enter God’s kingdom without being born of water and the Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. So don’t be

surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don't know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." "How can this be Jesus replied, "You're a teacher of Israel, and you still don't understand these matters? "The truth of the matter is, we're talking about what we know; we're testifying about what we've seen— yet you don't accept our testimony. If you don't believe when I tell you about earthly things, how will you believe when I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the One who came down from heaven— the Chosen One. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Chosen One must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One might have eternal life. Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whoever believes may not die, but have eternal life. God sent the Only Begotten into the world not to condemn the world,

**One:** For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us,

**Many:** We give thanks to God!

**The Reflection** .....Rev. Scott Marrese Wheeler

**The Communion Hymn** *PH* # 84 ..... "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

In the cross of Christ I glory, Towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me: Lo! It glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

## **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

### **The Invitation**

#### **The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*One:* The Lord be with you.

*Many:* **And also with you.**

*One:* Lift up your hearts.

*Many:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*One:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Many:* **It right to give our thanks and praise.**

*One:* We give you thanks and praise, God of all Creation, for the blessing of your earth and all your children, for the mercies you pour forth in fresh rains and harvests of plenty, for

joy that comes in the morning. We are a grateful people. You created a world of harmony and peace, but our yearning for power and privilege throughout history led to division and conflict, suffering and violence. We give thanks that you sent prophets and poets to lament and remind to bear witness and call us to yet a better way. to write the vision of a peaceable kingdom for all to see. With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus to sing:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*One:* We give you thanks that in the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus to bear witness to your mercy, grace and love. In his living, he showed us how to love. In his dying, he offered us undeserved mercy. In his rising, he granted us grace. Through the gift of faith, even faith as small as a mustard seed, his witness rekindles in us the gifts of God, not so that we can hold onto these gifts for ourselves but so that we can be united across the globe as one family of faith gathered around one table, sharing in one holy meal, sustained by a love that binds us together in peace. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our many tables trusting that Christ is the host of our sacred meal together. May the blessing of grain from the earth and fruit of the vine be a reminder of the true joy of communion that unites us in one worldwide covenant of love. Sustained by your Word, fed by this holy meal, may we go out with joy and be led forth in peace; through Christ our peace.

*Many: Amen.*

## **The Words of Institution**

### **The Breaking of Bread and Sharing of Cup**

*(You are invited to come forward to receive the elements. Please take a piece of bread, then an individual cup, partake of the elements, and then return to your pew. The table is open to all believers, children through adults.)*

### **The Prayer after Communion** [Responsive]

*One:* Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into your hands. Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you.

*Many: Amen.*

## **Offering of Our Tithes and Our Gifts to God**

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

**Closing Hymn** *PH* # 363 ..... "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

**I want Jesus to walk with me; (Walk with me) I want Jesus to walk with me; (Walk with me)  
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (with me)**

**In my trials, Lord, walk with me; In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (with me)**

**When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (with me)**

**The Blessing** .....by Jan Richardson

**BLESSING THE DISTANCE**

It is a mystery to me how as the distance between us grows, the larger this blessing becomes, as if the shape of it depends on absence, as if it finds its form not by what it can cling to but by the space that arcs between us.

As this blessing makes its way, first it will cease to measure itself by time. Then it will release how attached it has become to this place where we have lived, where we have learned to know one another in proximity and presence.

Next this blessing will abandon the patterns in which it moved, the habits that helped it recognize itself, the familiar pathways it traced.

Finally this blessing will touch its fingers to your brow, your eyes, your mouth; it will hold your beloved face in both its hands, and then it will let you go; it will loose you into your life; it will leave each hindering thing until all that breathes between us is blessing and all that beats between us is grace.

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

*One:* For all that God can do within us, for all that God can do without us,

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

*One:* For all in whom Christ lived before us, for all in whom Christ lives beside us,

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

*One:* For all the Spirit wants to bring us, for where the Spirit wants to send us,

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

*One:* The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and on your way together, now and forever.

**Many: Amen!**

**The Sung Response** PH # 432 ..... “Song of Hope”

May the God of hope go with us everyday, 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.

**We Carry the Light of Christ Out into the World**

**Postlude** ..... “God Will Take Care of You” arr. James Southbridge



The liturgy this morning is from: Call to Worship ~ written by Rev. Mindi, and posted on her **Rev-o-lution** blog; The Opening Prayer ~ from a longer Blue Christmas liturgy, posted on **Telling Secrets**; The Blessing ~ Jan Richardson from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons; The Sending ~ from *Common Prayer: From Conflict to Communion. Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017.*

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 musician today is Marian Korth.

#### **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.)
- Help us save “pig points.” For us to receive a rebate, please turn in your receipts from the Cambridge Piggly Wiggly in one of three ways: **1.** Place them in the brown bag in the narthex. **2.** Cheryl Stitz will do a porch pickup of any receipts that you may have. Call her at 608-695-1838 to make arrangements. **3.** Receipts can also be mailed to the church office. All funds received are used for mission projects.
- Next Sunday, March 12, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent – **Set your clocks forward as Daylight Saving Time begins**

## **WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE:**

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 12 WORSHIP AT 10 AM** – In-person worship continues this Sunday in the sanctuary. We are still mindful of the presence of COVID along with the cold and flu. If you are not feeling well, we would encourage you to remain home and join us for worship on our Facebook Live-Stream. Masks are also available for those who would feel more comfortable wearing them for their own health and safety. We do encourage people to encourage people to get vaccinated and boosted. Thank you.



### **WISH LIST!**

The Cambridge Food Pantry has been seeing a sharp increase in food insecurity among our neighbors, and like everywhere in America, the high cost of food and other household items is having an impact on our inventory.

With the growing number of neighbors in need and the low supply of food on our shelves, I am reaching out to ask for your help.

With the winter months ahead of us, the need will only increase, please consider helping your neighbors by donating to the food pantry.

**The food pantry is currently seeking donations of:** Soup (variety of canned soup), Corned Beef Hash, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, other canned meals and pastas, Crackers (Saltines, Ritz, etc.), Baked Beans, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Pancake Syrup, Shampoo and Conditioner, Men's and Women's Deodorant, Razors, Bath Soap, Laundry Soap, Toothpaste.

Monetary donations are always greatly appreciated!

For more information on how you can make a difference this holiday season, or to volunteer at the food pantry, please email: [foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us](mailto:foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us) or call Kerry at (608)423-8142.

The Cambridge Food Pantry website can be found at <https://cambridgecap.net/programs/nutrition/food-pantry/>

Thank you for your continued generous support!

Kerry Marren, Community Activities Program, Cambridge Food Pantry Coordinator

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

Julie Anderson  
Linda Johnson  
Jan & Nancy Kristiansen  
Mardy Schilleman  
Marilyn Schuster  
Jenine Spack

The families of Lorin Fulton, Evelyn Reiner, Caleb Wipperfurth, (CHS graduate who has died of cancer), Jim Schilleman, Donald Hawkins and 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

**Pastoral Office Hours:** Generally 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Wednesday 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



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### **SESSION** (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2023: Randy Johnson.

Class of 2024: Mare Stewart, Mark Touhey

Class of 2025: Joe Leto, Melanie Rumpf

### **CHURCH STAFF**

#### **Music—**

**Accompanists:** Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Karen Tordera,  
Angie Williams,

**Business Manager:** Ruth Poole

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

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