



Service for the Lord's Day

4th Sunday in Lent

March 19, 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 "Wondrous Love" arr. McCarthy
"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" arr. Carter

The Welcome and Announcements

Prelude "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" Bradburyh/arr.Vandall

Call to Worship [Responsive]

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Jesus calls us to be the light of the world –

Many: **To loose the bonds of injustice, open the eyes that are blind, and deliver from prison those who sit in darkness.**

One: God invites us to be a light to the nations –

Many: **To carry God's salvation to the ends of the earth.**

One: The Holy Spirit dwells in us,

Many: **Giving us strength to serve Christ in our daily lives.**

We live in God's foolish hope for us and for the world!

One: Let us worship the One in whom we live and move and have our being.

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

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirits call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

The Opening Prayer [Responsive]

One: Let us pray... Loving Shepherd,

Many: you know our names; you care for us.

One: When we face darkness and death,

Many: walk beside us.

One: When we hunger for your love,

Many: fill us with your presence.

One: When we are fearful,

Many: feed us at your table.

One: May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy

Many: all the days of our lives. 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 source of light? "

We Listen for God's Word

The Prayer for Illumination [Responsive]

One: Let us pray... God of justice, peace and righteousness come into our midst this morning.
Breathe your breath, your Spirit of prophecy, your energy, your enlivening, your
imagination on us.

Many: Wake us up, Open our eyes and unplug our ears that we might hear, that we might
see, that we might grieve, that we might dream, that we might follow the ways of
Your extraordinary kingdom within us and all around us. Amen.

The Scripture

Psalm 23

[Responsive]

One: O my Beloved, you are my shepherd,

Many: I shall not want;

One: You bring me to green pastures for rest and lead me beside still waters
renewing my spirit,

Many: You restore my soul.

One: You lead me in the path of goodness

Many: to follow Love's way.

One: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow and of death, I am not
afraid;

Many: For You are ever with me; Your rod and Your staff, they guide me, they
give me strength and comfort.

One: You prepare a table before me in the presence of all my fears;

Many: **you bless me with oil, my cup overflows.**

One: Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life;

Many: **and I shall dwell in the heart of the Beloved forever.**

John 9:1-7

As Jesus walked along, he saw someone who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked Jesus, "Rabbi, was it this individual's sin that caused the blindness, or that of the parents?" "Neither," answered Jesus, "It wasn't because of anyone's sin—not this person's, nor the parents'. Rather, it was to let God's works shine forth in this person. We must do the deeds of the One who sent me while it is still day—for night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

With that, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva and smeared the blind one's eyes with the mud. Then Jesus said, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"—"Siloam" means "sent." So the person went off to wash, and came back able to see.

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

We Respond to God's Love

Musical Response "There Is a Fountain" arr, Shackley

The Pastoral Prayer [Responsive]

One: Let us pray... Holy God, you are our shepherd,

Many: **we shall want for nothing that truly matters.**

One: In green pastures you give us rest and beside deep, still waters

Many: **you lead us.**

One: You promise to be with us always,

Many: **even as we struggle with the frictions of hatred, anxiety, fear and pain in our lives and our world.**

One: You give us living water to satisfy our thirst for peace.

Many: **We praise you and wonder if this is for all people.**

One: You refresh and restore our souls and guide us in right paths for the sake of your name.

Many: **When we are cast down we have been shown ways to bring a new creation to life in our world.**

One: Your unique plan for all of life and for each life is written into our very essence. May we believe it is a plan filled with hope, grown out of love.

Many: **Help our unbelief.**

One: Even though we walk in the dark valley,

Many: **we will fear no danger for you, God, are at our side, with rod and staff to give us courage.**

One: Each life, every nation, has its share of valleys. Some seem to have more than is right.

Many: You are a constant companion in the darkness.

One: When violence, pain and loss are heavy

Many: you comfort and provide light bearers to help us through these difficult, challenging times of uncertainty and fear.

One: When we are aching, lost and discouraged,

Many: you seek us out.

One: When we go astray, your compassionate judgment draws us back.

Many: Receive our gratitude. Know our darkness.

One: You spread the table before us in the sight of our enemies and richly bathe our heads with oil.

Many: Our cups overflow.

One: O Holy One, you are our host as well as our shepherd.

Many: You invite us to the banquet, the banquet of life.

One: All parts of the world are invited - enemies and friends, the alienated and powerful, those close at hand and those far off. You offer the abundance and lavishness of bread broken and shared and the cup of refreshment that leads to new life.

ALL: We praise and thank you for your abundant spirit. Goodness and love unending, these will follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the home of the One Who is Love for all eternity.

One: We offer you our lives and these prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to love one another, and to pray, saying...

ALL: 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.

Offering of Our Tithes and Our Gifts to God

We Depart to Do God's Will

Closing Hymn *PH* # 387 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, Much we need Thy tender care;

In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Thy folds prepare:

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Thou hast promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;

Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse and power to free:

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee;

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor; Early let us do Thy will;

Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Thy love our bosoms fill:

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

The Blessingby Jan Richardson

BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BEAR THE LIGHT

Blessed are you who bear the light in unbearable times, who testify to its endurance amid the unendurable, who bear witness to its persistence when everything seems in shadow and grief.

Blessed are you in whom the light lives, in whom the brightness blazes—your heart a chapel, an altar where in the deepest night can be seen

the fire that shines forth in you in unaccountable faith, in stubborn hope, in love that illumines every broken thing it finds.

The Sending [Responsive] Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

One: May God, who comes to us in the things of this world, bless your eyes and be in your seeing.

May Christ, who looks upon you with deepest love, bless your eyes and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit, who perceives what is and what may yet be, bless your eyes and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three bless your eyes and cause you to see.

Friends, go in peace, and may the Light of Christ shine in and through you. And all God’s people said:

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 “Lamb of God” Paris/arr. Floeter



The liturgy this morning is from: Call to Worship ~ posted on the **Seekers Church** website; The Opening Prayer ~ written by Mary Petrina Boyd, and posted on **Ministry Matters**; Prayer for Illumination ~ posted on the **Jonny Baker** blog; Psalm 23 ~ adapted by Nan C. Merrill, from Psalms for Praying; John 9:1-7 ~ Priests for Equality, The Inclusive Bible (pp. 2307-2308). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition; The Pastoral Prayer ~ from Sonya Dyer’s Prayerbook, posted on the Seekers Church website.

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 Karen Brunk.

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.

WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE:

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 26 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 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
Barbara Baker (Judy Pearson's sister)
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 or Pastor@OCPChurch.com
Web: www.OCPChurch.com
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Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

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, 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

