

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 19, 2023

Pre-Service Music: *Will You Come and Follow Me?* - C.E. Walz

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Meditation in A Minor* - John Turner

Introit #392: *Jesus, We are Here* *vs. 1*

Call to Worship

We come to sanctify ourselves.

We come seeking to be worthy of our call.

The Lord looks not at our outward selves,

but seeks to know what is in our hearts.

Let us learn what is pleasing to the Lord,

that we might live as children of the Most High.

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn #744: *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* (please stand)

Call to Confession

How do we know when our actions are right?

When the fruits of our labors are good and true.

Christ is the light that exposes all we keep hidden,

but offers us healing and renewal instead of judgment.

Therefore, let us hold up our sins to Christ's gaze.

Prayer of Confession

God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we predict, but we forget: you do what is good, not what is expected. Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles. Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions. Most of all, forgive us when we do not respond to your call, ignoring what we need to do to show the world your love and grace.

Declaration of Pardon

Jesus restores our souls and leads us in right paths for his name's sake.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,
and we will dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives long.**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Kyrie Eleison/Lord, Have Mercy #577: *(please stand)*

Anthem: *The Lord is My Shepherd* Allen Pote

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers. Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior who taught us to pray:

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

Hymn #451: *Open My Eyes That I May See* vs. 1, 2 (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Merciful God, your Word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Lesson: Samuel 16:1 - 13

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel Lesson: John 9:39-41

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Pastor Amy Cornelius

Affirmation of Faith Prayer for Listening and Speaking – First Presbyterian, Rolla

In all the relationships of our church life, community life, and personal life may we follow the teachings of Jesus. May we endeavor to speak the truth in love and be guided by scripture in our thoughts, decisions, and actions. May we respect and listen deeply to one another, keep confidences, and avoid gossip and triangulation. May we pray for and with one another, building each other up, realizing every soul is precious to God. Amen.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (please stand)

Offering #709: *God, We Honor You*

Prayer of Dedication:

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel, through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Sending Hymn #827: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright vs 1 & 3* (stand)

Benediction: (remain standing)

God the giver of love, Christ the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *Fanfare on "Rise Up, O Church of God"* - Tracey Craig McKibben

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Jeff Sandquist and Lorie Francis.
Worship led by Cheryl Koederitz and sermon provided by Pastor Amy Cornelius.*

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