

MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 East Simpson Street

Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055-6596

717-697-0351 • www.mechpresby.org

March 21, 2021 • 5th Sunday of Lent • 10am



Prelude

Jesus My Joy

JSB BWV 610

Welcome & Concerns of the Church

Call to Worship

Come, let us sing the Lord's praise

Why? Sometimes it feels like God has forgotten us.

How long, O Lord, will you hide your face?

Come, let us remember God's faithfulness,

That's right. God has answered our prayer.

We live by faith, not by feelings,

So come, let us sing the Lord's praise together.

Praise the Lord!

Hymn #167

Forty Days and Forty Nights

AUS DER TIEFE RUFTE ICH

*Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.*

*Shall not we your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?*

*Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint nor fail!*

*So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served you faithfully.*

*Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.*

Call to Confession

We are a community and a covenant people, who have all fallen short of the glory of God.
Therefore, trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins together.

Prayer of Confession

**God, Beloved Parent, Your presence fills our lives —
all that we are and all that we have comes from you;
all that you do declares your love for us.**

**Yet when trouble comes, when adversity plagues us,
we wonder where you are; we even wonder who you are.**

**How quickly we forget that you are always with us.
Lead us in the paths of righteousness,
for it is in your name that we pray. Amen.**

Response #551

Lord, Have Mercy

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News! The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God, Amen!

We Love to Tell the Story

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 13

*How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my
enemy be exalted over me?*

*Consider and answer me, O LORD my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.*

But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Special Music

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 27:45-50

*From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock
Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once
one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.
But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."*

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

The story of God for the people of God... **Thanks be to God.**

Declaration of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Our church states its faith and bears witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ by using ten creeds and confessions. In these confessional statements the church declares to its members and to the world who and what it is, what it believes and what it resolves to do. These confessional statements are subject to the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

The following is the Apostles' Creed, which in its earliest form dates back to 180 AD. The word 'catholic' refers to the entire Christian church; 'quick' means living:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #166*Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days*

ST. FLAVIAN

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.*

*As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.*

*Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.*

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

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 Tithes & Gifts**Offertory***I Call to Thee Lord Jesus*

JSB BWV 639

Prayer of Dedication**Response #215, v. 4***What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDROUS LOVE

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.*

Charge & Benediction

Pastors: Mark Allio & Kathryn Johnston
Liturgists: Patti Hinkson, Pat Schaal, Cathay Snyder
Organist: Mark McKeever

Don't forget! You can listen to a sermon snippet by calling 717-896-0131.
The message usually changes on Saturday morning.

YOU CAN CALL IN TO HEAR WORSHIP AT 10AM on SUNDAY MORNINGS

Dial (toll free): 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099

A voice will welcome you to Zoom and ask you to enter the meeting ID which is: 717-697-0351#
You should then be able to hear the worship service.

The line will be open on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:45am.

Join in Outdoor Worship Sunday afternoons at 1pm

NO SIGN UP NECESSARY!!! Bring your chair, wear your mask – come and worship!

The Church office is open 2-4pm Monday thru Thursday!

The COVID-19 Task Force is made up of Dave Cox, Jim Honafius, Kelli Scurfield, Nickie Shaddock, Tim Wonder, and Rick Whitcomb. They met this past Monday and are making a recommendation to Session tomorrow (3/22), as together we discern what the "Next Right Thing" is for opening the Sanctuary for indoor worship and the facilities to MPC and outside groups.

We have been using this time of closure to get some of the major repairs and refurbishments done that were part of the Capital Campaign. Because of that construction, we know that we will NOT be in the building in time for Easter services. We are planning a special online celebration AND a couple of outdoor options that you will be hearing about shortly.

Thank you for your patience, we cannot WAIT to see you soon!!!

Join us for Evening Prayer on Tuesday at 7:30pm on Zoom or Facebook Live.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86551663078?pwd=MHkwFFNR2o3QIErbmFsaFMSzBoZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 5166 3078

Passcode: PRAYER

Or Dial toll free:

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 865 5166 3078