

**Edgewood Presbyterian Church  
Homewood, Alabama  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 19, 2023**

**\*\*Please text any prayer requests to 205-924-5080 before the Sharing of the Peace.  
Please include your name, unless you wish the request to be anonymous. \*\***

**Prayer of Preparation**

*O God of true vision, give your Word to the hidden pieces of my soul. Amen.*

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**A Season of Growing**

**Prelude**

*Sonatina in G Major  
I Allegro non tanto*

Jan Ladislav Dussek  
Madeline Cagle, Pianist

**Welcome**

Rev. Joe Genau

**Call to Worship**

Lynn Frennea, liturgist

Come, let us sing to the Lord!

**Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Meet us in mud, in pools of healing, in a community of blessing.

**Show us how we belong to one another and belong to you.**

We are your people, gathered.

**May our worship emerge from the light  
you have given us to see truth.**

We are your people, gathered.

**May we find renewal and restoration, together.**

**Prayer of the Day**

<sup>1</sup> I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast.”  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found him in a resting place,  
and he has made me glad.

<sup>2</sup> I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live.”  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched,  
my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

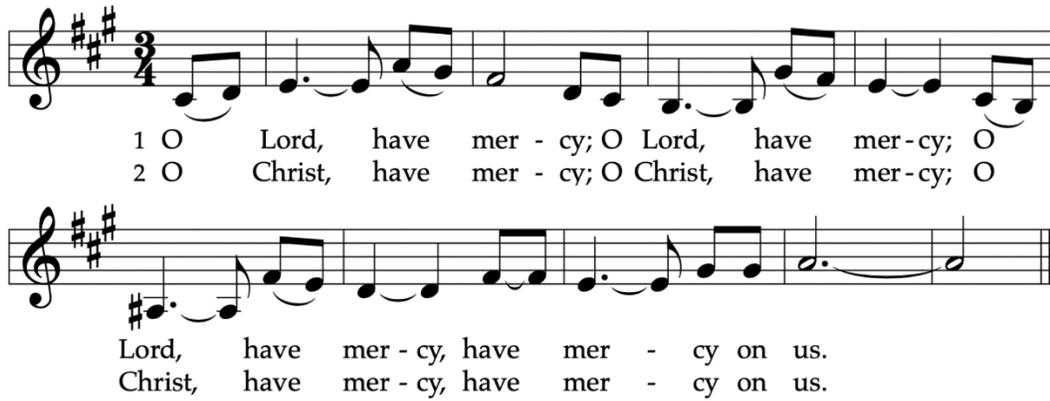
<sup>3</sup> I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“I am this dark world’s light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright.”  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I’ll walk  
till traveling days are done.

### **Invitation to Reconciliation**

### **Prayer of Brokenness**

**We confess, merciful God, that we have doubted the power  
of your Spirit and been cynical about what is possible in life.  
We have resigned ourselves to the brokenness of our world  
rather than relying on your strength and hope  
for healing and change.  
We have carried prejudices against others  
that blind us to their worth and giftedness.  
Forgive and transform us,  
so that we come alive as your instruments of love and justice.  
Speak to our hearts through your Spirit  
and strengthen us to follow Christ,  
to whom we open our hearts now in silence...**

#578



1 O Lord, have mer - cy; O Lord, have mer - cy; O  
2 O Christ, have mer - cy; O Christ, have mer - cy; O

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.  
Christ, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

### Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, and restored to new life!**

### Prayer for Illumination

### Gospel Reading

John 9: 1-41

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon

**“People First”**

The Rev. Joe Genau

<sup>1</sup> O carpenter, why leave the bench  
where wood yields to your art,  
and take instead, to try your skill,  
the stony human heart?

<sup>2</sup> O carpenter, why leave the tools  
to carry out your plans,  
and go instead to do God's work  
with empty, open hands?

<sup>3</sup> O carpenter, why leave the world of  
of table, bed, and house,  
to face the empire's carpentry,  
to lift a Roman cross?

<sup>4</sup> O carpenter, why leave repairs  
with wood and clamp and glue,  
and rise from death to seek instead  
to make the whole world new?

<sup>5</sup> O carpenter, who else could do  
the work that you have done?  
What can we do but sing your praise,  
O Savior, Mary's son!

### Sharing of the Peace

### Announcements for the Community of Faith

#### Anthem

*In the Cross I Glory*

arr. Cathy Moglebust

EPC Handbell Choir

Sofia Cagle, Oboe

### Offering of Tithes and Gifts

#### Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

### The Lord's Prayer

### Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

### Communion of the People

### Music at Communion      Chorale and Variations on *Blessed Jesus, We Are Here*

Chorale: Johann Sebastian Bach

Variations: Johann Gottfried Walther

### Concerns of the Church & Prayers of the People

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*Please include your name unless you wish to remain anonymous.*

### Hymn 618

*O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*

DEO GRACIAS

<sup>1</sup> O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
beyond all thought and fantasy,  
that God, the Son of God, should take  
our mortal form for mortals' sake.

<sup>2</sup> For us baptized, for us he bore  
his holy fast and hungered sore;  
for us temptations sharp he knew,  
for us, the tempter overthrew.

<sup>3</sup> For us by wickedness betrayed,  
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death;  
for us gave up his dying breath.

<sup>4</sup> For us he rose from death again;  
for us he went on high to reign;  
for us he sent the Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

<sup>5</sup> All glory to our Lord and God,  
for love so deep, so high, so broad:  
the Trinity whom we adore  
forever and forevermore.

**Charge from the Steps**

**Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Joe Genau

**Choral Benediction**

*Amen*

**Postlude**

*Toccata in G Minor*

Johann Pachelbel