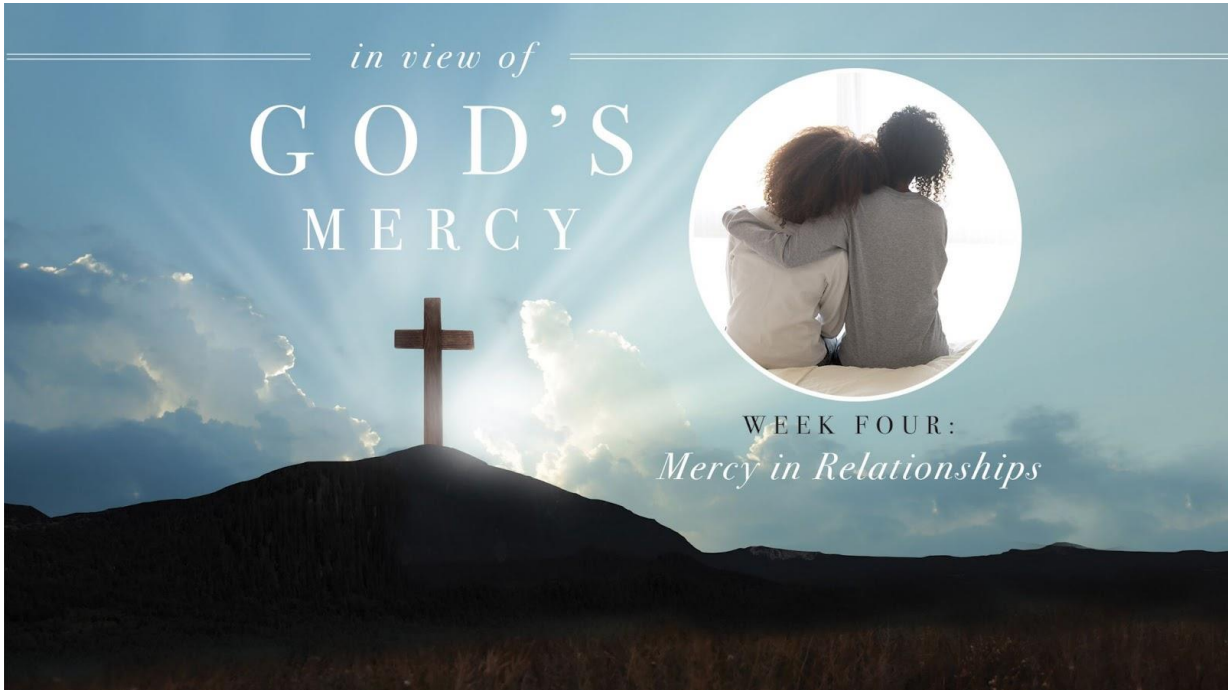


First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)

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Lent 4 Evening Worship with Communion

March 30, 2022

7:00 PM

The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor

Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org

828.448.8914

As we gather. . . . In this service for Week 4 of Lent in our *In View of God's Mercy* series, we look at our lives through the lens of God's love toward us in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. In this service, we will come to understand that within the communities God has placed us, we are given the grace to treat one another as Christ has cared for us in his love and mercy.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. - Ephesians 4:32

PRELUDE

Blest Be the Tie That Binds
Justin Streletz, Pianist

DENNIS, Arr. Larry Shackley

WELCOME

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

We are hungering and thirsting for hope and peace.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Our hearts long for the nourishing presence of God.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Give to us the living bread of your peace that we may hunger no more.

Open our hearts to joyfully receive your life-sustaining love.

Let us worship God!

+ HYMN

Abide with Me

836

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious Lord, as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage, we do so in view of your mercy. Although we have not loved one another as you command, you continue to show your mercy to us. In view of your mercy, transform us so that we view others as precious and love them as you have loved us. Strengthen us by the Holy Spirit so that we might live graciously toward our neighbors. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Which of us has not hurt someone this week? Which of us has not spoken, or thought ill of a sister or brother in Christ? Which of us has failed to do good when given the chance? Which of us? All of us... and each of us! But Christ came to save people just like us, so I invite you to join me as we confess our sins to God, praying together. . .

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we have not loved others as you have loved us. We have sinned against them, and in so doing we have sinned against you. We have not kept our tongues from evil but have slandered others. We have not sought peace but have pursued sinful revenge. Forgive our transgressions. Bring reconciliation and restoration to our relationship with you and our relationships with others.

We cry to you for mercy!

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

551

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 *(Ephesians 4:32)*

Hear the good news! God's Word declares that "God in Christ forgave you." In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you to remove the guilt of your sin. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sins and gives you his righteousness, making you holy in his sight. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

Hearing this good news, know that we are forgiven, and be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of love, who renews at the table of grace, prepare us to receive the feast of your wisdom through the illumination of your Spirit. Nourish our souls with your Word that we may learn how to love our neighbors as you have loved us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 45:1-15 NRSV

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL LESSON John 13:34-35 NRSV

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SILENT MEDITATION

O Lord, hear my prayer.
 O Lord, hear my prayer.
 When I call, answer me.
 O Lord, hear my prayer.
 O Lord, hear my prayer.
 Come and listen to me.

Note: This chant from the Taizé Community in France is based on Psalm 102:1-2.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Instructions: *If you haven't already picked up an individual prefilled communion cup as you entered the sanctuary, you are invited to come forward, by way of the center aisle, to receive the elements when an usher indicates. Gluten-free prefilled communion cups are located in the center of the tray. Please take the elements back to your seat by way of the outside aisles.*

Please hold the elements until all are served. *When directed by the Pastor, open the bread portion of the cup and partake. Then, when directed, carefully open the juice portion of the cup and partake. Please assist children and other members of your family who may have trouble opening the prefilled communion cups. Please hold onto your trash until you exit the sanctuary and dispose of your used cups in the provided waste receptacles.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(spoken)*

. . . 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Music during Communion

Eat This Bread

527

**Eat this bread; drink this cup;
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup;
trust in me and you will not thirst.**

Note: This text from the Taizé Community is based on John 6:35, which is paraphrased here. The version we are singing maintains the second-person invitation spoken by Jesus.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

+ SENDING HYMN

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

729

+ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Please leave prayerfully and in silence.

+ Please rise in body or in spirit.

Please join us on Wednesday evenings through April 6th for

Wednesday Night Alive Dinner	6:00 PM
Young People's Choir Rehearsal	6:25 PM
Lenten Worship with Communion	7:00 PM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Praise Team Rehearsal	8:30 PM

Please join us on **Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM** for a Christian Seder Meal Worship with Communion. Please RSVP on the church website, www.fupcdc.org by **Monday, April 4th**. If you would like to volunteer to help or have questions, please contact Cathy Smith at cathy.l.smith@comcast.net or 571-330-7065.

On **Good Friday, April 15, 2022**, the church will be open for prayer, **8:30 AM - 2:30 PM**.

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022

- **8:30 AM - Traditional Worship with Communion**
- **9:30 AM - Christian Education/ Small Groups for All Ages**
- **11:00 AM - Contemporary Worship with Communion**

Join us on Easter for a special celebration surprise after each worship service!