

**March 1, 2020 8:30 & 10:45**

**The First Sunday in Lent**

On this communion Sunday, we consider another individual who was commended by Jesus. The anointing of Christ with the precious perfume was extravagant. It was a gift beyond the woman's income. But she was so grateful that she did not count the cost. She gave the best she had. Some viewed it as waste. Some viewed Christ's ultimate sacrifice as waste, but through it, God chose to save the world.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to rise in body or spirit

**Gathering Music** 8:30 **Hymnal 548 In Christ there is no east or west** *McKee*

 10:45 **Instrumental offering** Sheep may safely graze *J. S. Bach*

**Greeting**

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me,

**People: and let us exalt God’s name together!** *Psalm 34:3*

**Announcements**

\*10:45 **Introit**  John 3: 16 *Karle Erickson*

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,

 so that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: We, who live in the shelter of the Most High . . .

**People: Let us come and trust in our God. God’s word us near us, on our lips and in our hearts.**

Leader: We, who trust in God’s promises . . . let us come and rejoice in the power of the Spirit.

**People: The Holy One is our refuge and our strength. We have come to worship the One who calls us!** *Deborah Sokolove*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

\* **Hymnal 545 The Church’s one foundation** *Ratisbon*

**\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**God of signs and wonders, God of power and love, God of breath and life, you make no distinctions between us – distinctions of ethnic origin or race, gender or identity, riches or poverty. All who believe in you will be saved. In you, we learn to trust the changing seasons – giving thanks as winter turns to spring, as long, dark nights give way to brighter days. In you, we find the courage to turn away from all that is false, rejoicing instead in the constancy of your love. You, who are our rock and our redeemer, save us from falling into temptation, as we turn our hearts to you. Amen.**

*Deborah Sokolove*

**Silent Prayer**

\***Worship & Song 3119 Take, O take me** *Take, O take*

 **Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;**

 **set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

John Bell © 1995 The Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications Inc.

 **… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**\*The Sign of Peace** *Please pass the peace to your neighbors as a sign of reconciliation and love.*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

 **People: And also with you.**

10:45 Gathering Song *James Ritchie*

 This, this is where children belong,

 welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.

 Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:

 This is where children belong. James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

10:45 **Message for Young Disciples**

All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward. After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the sanctuary near the end of the service.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Kathy Tremblay 10:45 Jane Casey

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 Love, the universal spiritual gift

**Response**

 Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

 **People: Thanks be to God**.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Good News Acclamation:**             *James J. Chepponis*

  Cantor sings first: **Praise and honor to you. Praise and honor to you.**

**Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

\*Scripture Reading

**A Lesson from the Gospels**

 Matthew 26:6-13 A woman pouring perfume on Jesus

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

10:45 **Offertory** **Anthem:** Ave verum *W. A. Mozart*

 Jesus, word of God incarnate, of the Virgin Mary born;

 on the cross Thy sacred body for us with nails was torn.

 Cleanse us by the blood and water streaming from Thy pierced side.

 Feed us with Thy body broken now and in death’s agony. *(sung in Latin)*

\***Hymnal** **95 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow** (standing) *Old 100th*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “The Woman Who Anointed Jesus” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Worship & Song 3167 Feed us, Lord** (stanza 1) *Greg Scheer*

**Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord. In the broken bread, be revealed again.**

 **Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.**

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**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

 **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

 **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

 **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following*

*words . . .)* Therefore, with your people in all ages and the whole company of heaven, we join in the song of unending praise, singing:

***[Musical Setting E, U.M. Hymnal, p. 25]***

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following*

*words. . .)* Through him, with him, in him, in all the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

***[Musical Setting E, U.M. Hymnal, p. 25]***

**AMEN.**

**Giving the Bread & Cup**

**Prayer following Communion**

God of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

 10:45 *During the distribution of the elements the choir will sing the following anthem:*

 **Anthem:** Carol of the Hill *Stephen Paulus*

 On my ground with a crown of thorn, He died for us who for us was born.

 The tree that flowered is cold and bare; no songs, no singing anywhere;

 O Bethlehem, Ah Jerusalem, Ah Jerusalem.

 Second Adam Son of Man, into my earth your life’s blood ran.

 Now from this earth new trees will grow with fruits, with flowers, I swear it so.

 O Bethlehem, Ah Jerusalem, Ah Jerusalem.

 For you I shall wear a crown of trees, and birds will sing from among their leaves,

 For you I shall wear a crown of trees, now sing birds sing, from among your leaves;

 O Jerusalem, born again, born again, O Jerusalem.

 Michael Dennis Browne ©1976 AMSI

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

\***Hymnal 269 Lord, who throughout these forty days** (stanzas 1-4)*Land of Rest*

\***Benediction**

\***Hymnal 269 Lord, who throughout these forty days** (stanza 5)*Land of Rest*

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Rob and Jane Spicher in loving memory of their parents: Howard and Marie Spicher and Richard and Bonnie Greene.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given in honor of DIA (Dames in Action) and their faithful support of missions to the congregation.

**The flowers in the narthex** are given by Bob and Beverly Festor in celebration of Joey Festor's 40th birthday on March 3rd.

**Greeters 8:30** Marsha Manke **10:45** Lesley Troy

**Special Music at 10:45**  is provided by the Chancel Choir, accompanied by Sandro Leal and Ashley Freeburn, violin; Maija Anstine, viola; and Will Teagarden, cello. The presence of the string players is made possible through the many contributors to the Friends of Music Fund.

**Acolytes** Emily Shoff and Vivienne Volek **Cross Bearer** Bradley Shoff

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**1 Corinthians 13:1-7**

13 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**Matthew 26:6-13**

6Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, 7a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. 8But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? 9For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.” 10But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. 11For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. 12By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. 13Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http://mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $33 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium, and $66 for the chancel.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Heights

May Frederick, Baptist Home

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Woody Kimmel, Providence Point

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Doris Trimble, Providence Point

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

Anne Hoffman, Friendship Village

Dave Lewis, Allegheny General

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore,

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

Joseph Festor, Ezra Gibson,

 Steve Howard, Susan Lichtenfels,

George Lindow, Carol Van Sickle,

 Arlene Stewart, Peyton Wisterman

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz,
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell,

Sgt. Brendan Lamport,

Matt Lewis, USMC,

Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda,
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz,
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes,
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller,

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller,
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski,

Sgt Michael Zimmerman

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, MARCH 1 THRU SATURDAY, MARCH 7**

**SUNDAY 3/1**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 8:30 am The Gathering Asbury

 9:30 am Sunday School Various

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 10:45 am Kids Praise Welcome Center

 11:45 am Youth Choir Choir Room

 11:45 am Mission Trip Information Meeting Wesley

 12 pm Blood Pressure Screening Brookline Parlor

 5 pm Youth Group Wesley

**MONDAY 3/2**

7 pm Church Council Meeting Wesley

7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

**TUESDAY 3/3**

11 am Staff Meeting Welcome Center6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury

 7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

**WEDNESDAY 3/4**

 2 pm Small Groups/Gifts of the Spirit(John Esaias) Brookline Parlor

 7 pm Small Groups/Gifts of the Spirit(Clark Remington) Brookline Parlor

**THURSDAY 3/5**

8:30 am Northside Lunch Prep Asbury Kitchen

9 am Hearts and Hands Epworth

 12 pm TNT Asbury Heights

6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**SATURDAY 3/7**

 10 am Food Pantry/Food Lift Free Market Food Pantry