

***Hymn 187**

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

***The Charge**

Mark 12:28-31

Which commandment is the first of all?

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
And with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

And the second is this:

**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no other commandment greater than these.**

***Sung Benediction 166 (1,4)**

“Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”

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

***Blessing**

***Postlude**

“What is the World Like” (GTG 771)

NEW WORLD

Tice/Sally Ann Morris

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

A hearing loop is active; set hearing aid to “T-coil.”

Scripture passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version.

The Morning Meditation is from Ann Weems, “The Disciples,” in Weems, *Kneeling in Jerusalem* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1993), 30.

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Montreat Presbyterian Church is an Earth Care congregation.

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 26, 2017, 9:00 A.M.**

Morning Meditation

Ann Weems

*“Hurting, they came to him. Healed, they followed him.
Grateful, they gave to him what they had and what they were.
Blessed, they became a blessing and went out to all the world in his name.”*

Chimes of the Trinity and Ritual of Fellowship

Voluntary

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

ST. COLUMBA

Irish melody/arr. Carter

***Call to Worship**

I Sam 16:7; John 9:5

God does not see as mortals see.

We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

Once we lived in darkness, but now

we are called to what is good and right and true.

Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

***Hymn 314**

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, help us to see the world as you see it,
to see others as you see them, and to see ourselves rightly, too.**

**Help us learn to leave our judgments behind,
trusting you to be our judge.**

**Pursue us until your goodness and faithful love
fill every heart and inform every action.**

**We pray in the name of the one who came that we might see,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Kyrie Eleison 551 (unison)

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Assurance of Pardon

Response 604

“Lamb of God”

The Reading from Psalter (unison)

Psalms 23 (NRSV)

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

Hymn 842 (refrain only)

“The Lord Is My Light”

*Congregants may sing whichever “theme” they choose, or add their own harmonies.
As in the Taizé style, the refrain will be repeated for an unspecified number of times.*

Reading from the Gospels

John 9:1-41

The Sermon

Keith Grogg

“What Do You Say about Him? It Was Your Eyes He Opened”

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 Our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

Indian folk melody
arr. Carter

*Doxology 607

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life
for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**