

***Prayer of Dedication and Affirmation of Faith**

A Declaration of Faith

We do not fully comprehend who God is or how God works.
God's reality far exceeds all our words can say.
The Lord's requirements are not always what we think is best.
The Lord's care for us is not always what we want.
God comes to us on God's own terms
and is able to do far more than we ask or think.

**Jesus' involvement in the human condition is God's involvement.
His compassion for all kinds of people is God's compassion.
His demand for justice, truth, and faithfulness is God's demand.
His willingness to suffer rejection is God's willingness.
Jesus' love for the very people who reject him is God's love.**

***Hymn 649**

"Amazing Grace"

***The Charge** (minister)

***Sung Benediction 826 (Refrain and verse 1)**

"Lift High the Cross"

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world adore his sacred name.
Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

***Blessing**

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

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

The Prayer of Confession is reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox press
from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* © 2014.



MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION.

**MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 11, 2018, 9:00 A.M.**

Morning Meditation

Frederick Buechner

*The grace of God means something like: "Here is your life. You might never have been,
but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you.
Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you.
Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you."
There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours
only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.*

Chimes of the Trinity

Ritual of Fellowship

Minute for Mission

Souper Bowl Offering

Voluntary

"Wondrous Love"

Variation I Southern
Harmony/arr. Carter

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 107:19-22

They cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;

**He sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from destruction.**

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.

**And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.**

***Hymn 645**

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints.
We grumble about the evils in our world,
even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit.
We fret about the scarcity of resources
while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor.
We protest the problems of our world,
but we do not actively work to address them.
Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace.
Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways
that we me know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Kyrie Eleison 577 "Lord, Have Mercy"
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of Pardon

Response 603 "Lamb of God"

Cantor: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy, have mercy on us.

Congregation: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy, have mercy on us.

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Grant us, O grant us your peace.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

Taizé Hymn 544

"Bless the Lord"

Gospel Reading

John 3:1-21

*Hymn 377

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

Sermon

"We Are What God Has Made Us"

Keith Grogg

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

"Lift High the Cross"

CRUCIFER
Nicholson/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.