

CHIMING THE HOUR
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* PASSING THE PEACE (Responsive)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

arr. Behnke

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

In the buds on the trees eager to burst; in the flowers poking their heads out of the dirt; in the children chalking spring on the sidewalks:

we see how you love us, God of steadfast love.

In the tears of a worried father over his son's illness; in the weariness of a mother facing a long shift at work; in the woman who anoints her grandbaby with talcum powder:

we see how you love us, our Resurrection and our Life.

In the touch of a wife on her husband's papery skin; in the birds which rush into the sky before spiraling down; in the words we are given to offer to the empty-hearted: we see how you love us, Breath of our souls.

* HYMN 363

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

- * Invitation to Prayer
- * PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (Responsive)

We are set free by your saving grace, Generous God, yet we must confess how we are still bound by our pride and arrogance. We seem unable to throw off the grave clothes of our habitual sin, finding them too comfortable to wear. We cling to our fears, for they are so familiar and make such good companions.

Yet, there in every corner of our lives, in every shadow we fear, into the cold embrace of death itself, you come, Steadfast Love. You break the bonds of sin and terror, giving us new strength and hope for the journey, and calling us to new life through the love of Jesus Christ.

(Silent prayers)

- * ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE
- * HYMN OF RESPONSE 85 Verse 1

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the heavy cross for my soul,

for my soul, to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

WE LISTEN

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children are invited forward

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
John McGlennon

Introduction
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Presentation
Questions
Act of Baptism
Prayer and Blessing after Baptism

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE Psalm 22:1-11

John 11:17-44

MEDITATION Via Dolorosa: Jesus Wept

* HYMN

787 God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn



WE RESPOND

* STATEMENT FOR LENT (Unison)

I am standing before the cross in all its brutality and feel overwhelmed by the enormity of it all.

Why could the church not have a nice life-affirming symbol instead of a cross?

Something to remind us to love each other and that love will always triumph in the end.

But perhaps that would be just too easy;

perhaps we need reminding that to love unconditionally often comes at a cost.

When we cross the barriers of prejudice and exclusion that society puts up to separate us from the poor and despised from our traditional enemies;

when we truly stand up for what is right, we too may be rejected and ridiculed.

The cross reminds us that love has no boundaries, no limitations;

we must keep loving, regardless of the consequences.

The cross is not a symbol of defeat, but a symbol of the victory of unconditional selfless love which should support and inspire us to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

ANTHEM When Jesus Wept Billings/Bock

* HYMN OF RESPONSE 85 Verse 2

What Wondrous Love Is This

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS & CONCERNS:

PRAYER 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.

WE DEPART

* HYMN 96 Calvary

* BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Mitten wir im Leben Sind Walcha

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN AND EASTER SCHEDULE —Throughout Lent, we will follow the way of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa, which is Latin for the Way of Sorrow. Traditionally this is a processional route in the Old City of Jerusalem, believed to be the path that Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion. We are going to look at various stories from Jesus' life where tears and sorrow figured prominently and seek to understand how God through Jesus transforms our lives.

- On Maundy Thursday, April 18, we will gather in the Social Hall at 6:30 pm for soup; the service begins at 7:00 pm. The service is interactive with activities for all ages. We will use Prayer Stations which are prayer activities that invite us to read/listen/reflect and then respond to God's voice. They involve more than just our mind, engaging our body and our emotions as well. These allow God to break us through our guarded exterior and speak to us in our depth of being.
- Good Friday Prayer Vigil—a sign-up sheet is available. The sanctuary will be open during the day for prayer and meditation.
- Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 am, led by Rev. Doug Asbury, outdoors or indoors, depending on the weather. A light meal in the manse will follow.
- Easter Sunday will be filled with bells, trumpets and celebrations including communion.



LENTEN PRACTICES — **Prayer** is an essential part of the Lenten experience. There is a saying that without prayer, fasting is just dieting. Without prayer, almsgiving is just social work. Prayer connects us with our loving God. As an act of preparation for worship, you are invited to read the Scripture that will be used in worship.

Fasting helps us focus on God. Sometimes we are called to give up a food item. Sometimes we are called to give up something which is occupying our time, like video games or endless checking on social media. This is a good time to think

about what is ruling your life. What is occupying your time and thoughts? Give that thing up. And then when Lent is over, contemplate where your focus went when you no longer had that thing. Were you more able to focus on God and others? If so, try not to let whatever you gave up take over your life again.

Almsgiving is the act of giving to the poor. Through almsgiving we share God's love with others, and we recognize that the gifts we have are not really our own. If the thing you are fasting from leaves a little extra money in your pocket, then give that money to a worthy charity which helps the poor. You can also donate goods. If you really want to push yourself, give your time in direct service to another. Acts of service can be considered almsgiving, especially if you do them with the intention of sharing your gifts. You might encounter Jesus in the faces of those you are serving. This year as part of your almsgiving you are invited to bring the following items each Sunday for use in our Little Food Pantry. As an act of service, you are invited to help us stock the pantry.

- Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 7 Canned Ravioli or other canned meals John 11:17-44
- Palm Sunday, April 14 Peanut Butter & Jelly Luke 19:41-44
- Easter Sunday, April 21 (not a Sunday in Lent) Canned fruit John 20



JAZZ SUNDAY IS APRIL 28 — Andrew Tecson and his jazz musician colleagues will be featured at morning worship on April 28. Since 2006 the annual "Jazz Sunday at RPC" has been a beloved tradition, with the band providing all music for the service. The son of RPC member Caroline Tecson and the late Joseph Tecson, Andy, a lawyer (a graduate of the

University of Chicago Law School), grew up in Riverside and has played the saxophone since he was a young boy. He is a composer as well and began composing music as a student at Riverside - Brookfield High School. Some of his compositions are the Jazz Psalms, the Chicago Jazz Mass, and more recently, with his fellow musicians Bobby Schiff and Bobby Lewis, a Jazz Passion. All of these works have been performed in regional churches and beyond. A special treat to enjoy is the opportunity to hear the members of this talented ensemble improvise individually on their instruments: Andy Tecson, saxophone; Bobby Schiff, piano; Larry Gray, bass; Jerry Coleman, drums; Ken Jandes, saxophone; Kirk Garrison, trumpet; and Kecia Waldschmidt, vocalist. You won't want to miss this lively service. Please join us!

CHOCOLATE FOR LENT — Using themes from the 2000 Academy Award nominated film Chocolat, our next Theology on Tap series invites us to use Lent and chocolate to gain deeper insights into self-discipline, self-giving, conversion, acceptance and maturing in Christ. Monday, March 18 — Monday, April 8 we will then meet at 7:00 in the parlor for discussion and Chocolate desserts!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL — is open to all ages. In combination with Sunday School, Jr. High Youth group will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Volunteers are needed. Sign up outside of the Christian Ed office or contact Diante. **April 14—Palm Sunday**

JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH — **Saturday, April 20** — we will be going to the movies. Please bring money to cover the cost of the ticket plus any snacks you might like. We need an Adult Volunteer.

NEW EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIR TRADE ITEMS – There are many new organic fair-trade items for sale outside of Dale's office (green, black and herbal tea, breakfast blend and french roast coffee, baking cocoa and hot cocoa and new chocolates). Proceeds go to support the Senior High Mission Trip.

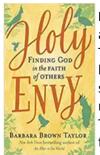
SHARE THE HARVEST—Spring is here! Take time now to look at your outside and see where you could plant a garden for Share the Harvest.

LOOSE COIN OFFERING — On the first Sunday of each month, we dedicate all loose coins in the offering plates to feed the hungry. The money goes to the Presbytery of Chicago Hunger Fund.

WORSHIP AT CANTATA — Join us in the worship service for the residents of Cantata at 2 pm today.

OPEN GYM FOR KIDS TODAY — The gym is open for the kids immediately following Worship. Parents, please bring your children upstairs and wait with them until our supervisor arrives.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SIGN-UP—Please sign up to bring soup, set up or clean up on Maundy Thursday.



NEW THEOLOGY ON TAP — April 29 will kick-off our next Theology on Tap. Location will be announced. We are reading Barbara Brown Taylor's new book, *Holy Envy*. In *Holy Envy*, Taylor contemplates myriad ways other people and traditions encounter the Transcendent, both by digging deeper into those traditions herself and by seeing them through her students' eyes as she sets off with them on field trips to monasteries, temples, and mosques.

Troubled and inspired by what she learns, Taylor returns to her own tradition for guidance, finding new meaning in old teachings that have too often been used to exclude religious strangers instead of embracing the divine challenges they present. Re-imagining some

central stories from the religion she knows best, she takes heart in how often God chooses outsiders to teach insiders how out-of-bounds God really is.

CARERS TRUNK APRIL — This month the CARERS Committee will be collecting cereal of all kinds for BEDS Plus, which serves the homeless.

SPRING SERVICE AUCTION – SAVE THE DATE! This year we are splitting our fundraising auction into two events. On Sunday, May 19 at 5:00 pm, we will host a Cinco de Mayo themed dinner, accompanied by an auction of member-prepared dinner parties, meal deliveries, vacation homes and other services or items that have proved to be popular items in the past. (We know that some of last year's dinner events are yet to be held, but this is the only year we will have overlap.) In the fall there will be an Oktoberfest Dinner and Auction that will be a more community-wide event. Both events are critical to a healthy budget.

Please make every effort to attend the May 19 Service Auction! You can shout Ole! for a great Mexican meal (including libations!) and line up your social calendar for the rest of 2019 and the first part of 2020 with the wonderful events being offered. Muchas Gracias!



2020 CHURCH TRIP—Have you ever dreamed of seeing the Blue Mosque and Haga Sofia in Istanbul? How about floating around in the Aegean Sea, stopping at Santorini, considered the most breathtaking of the Greek Isles, and several other islands? Or walking among the ruins of the Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens?

You can do all that as well as walk in the towns that inspired Paul's letters and visit the cave where John was said to have received the Revelation if you join us on our RPC trip to Greece & Churches of the Revelation. We are three dates (including a

summer option) in 2020 in hopes that many of you will be able to come. Pastor Dale will be holding informational meetings on Monday, April 8th at 6:30, Sunday, April 28th and Sunday May 5th after worship, to provide more information, or you can call him personally if you can't attend any of these dates. Those who traveled to Israel and Egypt with us in 2018 know how fun it is to travel with church members. Hope you can join us!

THIS WEEK

Today

10:00 am Worship with Baptism

11:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Open Gym

2:00 pm Worship at Cantata

Monday

7:00 pm Theology on Tap 7:30 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Forum

Wednesday

4:15 pm Ringers & Singers

6:30 pm acaBELLa Ringers

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday

6:30 am Women's Forum 10:00 am CARERS Meeting

Saturday

9:00 am All Church Work Day

Sunday

9:00 am Confirmation Class 9:00 am Sunday School

9:00 am Human Scene

10:00 am Worship - Palm Sunday

11:00 am Fellowship

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Liturgist: Lynda Nadkarni

Ushers: Devin, Jaden and Susan Zander

Andrew Ministers: Cyril Friend and Susan Lynch

Trustees of the Month: Cyril Friend and Susan Deems-Dluhy **Flowers** are given in loving memory of Sue D. Strause. We miss you Granny! from Susan, Kaki and Michael Lynch. **Coffee Fellowship** is hosted by the Personnel Committee.

2019 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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201920202021Jeanine ButtimerFrank GangwareGwen HeinePatti FriendMartha HeineAllan HallineSusan LynchLynda NadkarniMatt Lisle

Lisa Aulerich- Marciniak Dennis Zander

Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk of Session

Deacons

Ellen Hamilton Lloyd Bradbury Deb Jansky
Sandy Kappmeyer Charlie Juister Serina Ranft
Steve Teune Sally Sloane Wendy Seifert

Jeanne Smith

Trustees

Susan Deems-Dluhy Patti Perry Thom DeVries
Cyril Friend Doug Harvin Fred Mitchell
Fred Kitch Hank Vogel Connie Nestor

Brad Staubus

Mission Statement

We gather as a church to:
Celebrate God's presence,
Nurture the Spiritual Life,
Carry the light of Christ into the world,
Serve God by serving others.

Riverside Presbyterian Church

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546 (708) 447-1520, rpcusa.org Sermons available at https://vimeo.com/riversidepresbyterian

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