

Amity Presbyterian Church



Fifth Sunday in Lent March 17, 2024

Glorifying Christ - Always Loving, Serving, & Growing

Welcome to worship! We're glad you're here. At Amity, we truly believe that each person is a loved child of God, so we seek to welcome everyone as fully as God does. We celebrate the presence of children of all ages in worship, along with their noise and wiggles. Please make yourself at home.

Pastor: Rev. Megan Argabrite
Worship Leader: Faye Castle

Director of Music: Isaiah Cornelius
Accompanist: Nia Imani Williams

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We Gather Around the Word

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*The congregation speaks the words in **bold***)

Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name,

God is here among us!

Come, let us worship the God of Creation,
the God of People, the God of Community.

Let us follow Jesus, for Jesus is The Way.

Let us worship together in faith.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Lift High the Cross

Hymn #826

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Singing together:

Music: #695

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you. (repeat)

Together we make our confession:

Almighty God,

In Jesus we find our guide for living as people of faith.

He even gave us words to pray

that show us how to trust, forgive, and love.

Forgive us for not following the example he sets,

for not seeking your will to be done in our lives.

**Instead of graciously receiving our daily bread from you,
we take more than we need at the expense of our neighbors.**

We so often fail to forgive others,

holding onto our anger and bitterness.

Free us from the sin that keeps us bound,

and help us to truly be Jesus' disciples,

walking in his way of life.

Silent prayer

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: ...Hear and believe the good news of the gospel!

Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia, amen!

We Proclaim the Word

THE GOSPEL IN OTHER WORDS

Children of all ages are invited to come to the front.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC *When You Prayed Beneath the Trees* Lloyd Larson

When you prayed beneath the trees, it was for me, O Lord;
when you cried upon your knees, how could it be, O Lord?
When in blood and sweat and tears, you dismissed your final fears,
when you faced the soldiers' spears, you stood for me, O Lord.

When their triumph looked complete, it was for me, O Lord;
when it seemed like your defeat, they could not see, O Lord!
When you faced the mob alone - you were silent as a stone,
and a tree became your throne; you came for me, O Lord.

When you stumbled up the road, you walked for me, O Lord;
when you took your deadly load, that heavy tree, O Lord;
when they lifted you on high, and they nailed you up to die,
and when darkness filled the sky, it was for me, O Lord.

When you spoke with kingly power, it was for me, O Lord;
in that dread and destined hour, you made me free, O Lord;
earth and heaven heard you shout, death and hell were put to rout,
for the grave could not hold out; you are for me, O Lord.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 6:9-15* Page 1508 in Pew Bible

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 18:15-20* Page 1530 in Pew Bible

*SUNG RESPONSE *Glory Be to the Father* Hymn #581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

MESSAGE

"How Do I Forgive?"

Pastor Megan

We Respond to the Word

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Melissa Hinnen

Jesus spoke these words:

***“I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth
will be fastened in heaven.***

And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven.”

And so, we will:

**Loosen from fear of asking,
and fasten to humble curiosity.**

**Loosen from binary thinking,
and fasten to infinite love.**

**Loosen from retributive vengeance,
and fasten to restorative justice.**

**Loosen from empty apologies,
and fasten to acts of repentance.**

**Loosen from collaborative resentment,
and fasten to healing conversation.**

**Loosen from the shackles of anger,
and fasten to freedom that comes through forgiveness.**

**Loosen from traumatic pain,
and fasten to radical grace.**

**I will loosen from self-doubt,
and fasten to blessed assurance that I am a child of God;
fasten to the joy of my sacred value;
fasten to my connection with the Divine;
fasten to the continuity of overflowing Spirit.**

We will let forgiveness set us free.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

INVITATION TO GIVE

We Follow the Word Into the World

*SONG OF PRAISE

Here I Am, Lord

Hymn #69

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen

Hymn #561

A musical score for the benediction response. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The time signature is 6/8. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - men.' are written below the treble staff, with hyphens under the 'a' and 'men' words. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (Bb).

*POSTLUDE

*You're invited to stand, if able

Weekly Lenten Bible Study will be held each Wednesday, February 21st through March 27th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Amity Room. Pastor Megan will lead a study deeper into the scriptures and themes for each week.

Food Justice Ministry Team is having two additional raised beds added to our Edible Landscape and Orchard by Mecklenburg County on Tuesday, April 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Programs for the children will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with the NC State Master Gardeners. Lunch will be provided in Johnston Hall. Come join us to help set up these new beds.

Next Sunday, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Please come prepared to give generously to this PCUSA program.

Middle and High School Youth Group will meet today from 4:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. the Youth Room.

Amity Prayer Needs

Health Needs

Jack Hudspeth

Charlie and Penny Mills

Betty Valek

Ben Stokes

Tina Emmons

Donna Dobson

Ray and Rick Gelinis

Dick & Marie Houston

Karen Edwards

Elizabeth and Matt Crabtree (Tom Phlegar's daughter)

Stephanie Ellis (Melissa Ellis' daughter)

Carl Weiss (friend of Kirstin Gelinis)

Bill Ross (Parkinson's)

Sharon DeBoer

Glenn Butterworth

Jamie Beck

Marilyn Long

Other Concerns

Evie Argabrite, starting at new school

Angela Johnson and for her daughter, Sarah's, safety

Jimmy Jones, housing

The Farrell Family (Melissa and Dylan, and sister Christina's health)

Prayers for the World

Victims and Perpetrators of Gun Violence

The people of Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Russia

Peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Victims of natural disasters

Those suffering from addictions

*Your church family wants to pray for you. To be added to the prayer list,
call the church office or email your request to office@amitypc.org*



Love. Serve. Grow.

Come hear the story of God's great love for you.

Holy Week at Amity

Palm Sunday



March 24

11:00 am
English Service

2:00 pm
African Fellowship in Swahili

Good Friday Tenebrae Worship



March 29

6:30pm in the Sanctuary

We will begin with communion, remembering the Last Supper, then let scripture tell the story of Christ's death in a Tenebrae service.

What is a Tenebrae Service?

"Tenebrae" is a Latin word meaning "shadow of darkness." This ancient worship tradition, over 1600 years old, recounts the final events in the life of our Savior. With each step toward his death, a candle is extinguished, reminding us of the absence of Christ's light in the world while we await the hope of the resurrection. Together, we will follow Jesus to the cross through scripture and song.

Easter Sunday



March 31

11:00 am
Bilingual Worship in English and Swahili

Easter Egg hunt after worship for children 12 and under. Everyone is welcome!