

Troy Presbyterian Church
11021 Troy Pike, Versailles, KY
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023

Chiming the Hour

Musician

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Pastor

One: For forty days and forty nights, led by the Spirit,
Christ fasted in the wilderness.

**Many: For forty days and forty nights, we prepare ourselves to
meet the crucified and risen Christ.**

Musical Prelude

Musician

Call to Worship

Liturgist

One: Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of
our salvation.

**Many: Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and
raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

One: For our Lord is a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

**Many: Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the
Lord our maker.**

*Opening Hymn

"Come, Worship God"

(GTG #386)

*Call to Confession

Pastor

*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Jesus, friend of all, once again, we come to you knowing our words have stung,
knowing our actions have harmed, knowing our indifference has let evil have
its day. Our hearts yearn for you, our souls thirst for you, yet we do not
imitate you in our lives. We scorn those who are different from us and relish
our own comfort. Once again, forgive us, O God. Give us your living water,
that we might tell the world all you have done for us. Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, hear the good news of the gospel:
Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

**Many: Christ heals us, Christ teaches us,
Christ leads us to new life. Thanks be to God!**

*Musical Response

(GTG #434)

*Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.*

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

Liturgist

**Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts--
-a spring of hope for a thirsty world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A Reading from the Old Testament: Exodus 17:1-7+

Liturgist

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah^[a] and Meribah,^[b] because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

A Reading from the Epistles: Romans 5:1-11+

Liturgist

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access^[b] to this grace in which we stand, and we^[c] boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we^[d] also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.^[e] ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God

through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

One: Heaven and earth will pass away
but the word of the Lord stands forever.
Many: Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem

A Reading from the Gospel: John 4:3-42+

Pastor

³[Jesus] left Judea and started back to Galilee. ⁴ But he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)^[b] ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir,^[c] you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir,^[d] give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir,^[e] I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you^[f] say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you^[g] will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You^[h] worship what you^[i] do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is

coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he,^[l] the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah,^[l] can he?” ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving^[l] wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

One: Go and tell everyone what you have seen and heard.
Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “*Breaking Boundaries*”

*Hymn “*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*” (GTG #182)

*Affirmation of Faith

adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.21

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

Morning Prayer

Pastor

Offering of our Lives

Liturgist

*Musical Response

"Doxology"

(GTG #606)

*Prayer of Dedication and Lord's Prayer

Liturgist

... as you taught your disciples to say: **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.**

*Closing Hymn

"Christ Be Beside Me"

(GTG #702)

*Blessing and Charge

Pastor

*Musical Blessing

"Bless the Lord"

(GTG #544)

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

Service Notes:

Good morning, and welcome to worship at Troy Presbyterian Church! We're glad that you've joined our worship this day, either in-person or live-streamed at home. If you've considered joining the Troy fellowship, please speak to the pastor or one of the ushers for more information. For more about the church, see the website: www.troychurchky.org and/or look for us on Facebook. The office number is 859-873-2373 and the church email address is: troypresbyterian@windstream.net.

For Families with young children (ages birth to 5th grade): activity kits are provided for children. If your children grow restless during worship, parents are welcome to take children to the Nursery and Wee Worship Rooms in the Learning Center.

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Worship Leaders:

Lee Wadsworth, Liturgist

Hayden P. McNeal, Music Director and Organist

The Rev. Jerry L. Utt, II, Pastor

Troy Year-To-Date Financial Report

Your Stewardship Committee wants to keep everyone informed about our church finances.

Through February 2023:

Pledges & Other Income	\$26,221
Operating Expenses	\$27,881
Net Operating Loss	(\$1,660)
Funds Available as of 2/28/23:	\$75,921
less Designated Funds and liabilities:	(\$21,456)
Balance Remaining for Operations:	\$54,465

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Come, Worship God

(Psalm 95)



1 Come, wor-ship God, who is wor - thy of hon - or;
 2 Ruled by your might are the heights of the moun - tains;
 3 We are your peo - ple, the sheep of your pas - ture;
 4 Now let us lis - ten, for you speak a - mong us;

en - ter God's pres - ence with thanks and a song!
 held in your hands are the depths of the earth.
 you are our Mak - er, and to you we pray.
 o - pen our hearts to re - ceive what you say.

You are the rock of your peo - ple's sal - va - tion
 Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,
 Glad - ly we kneel in o - be - dience be - fore you;
 Peace be to all who re - mem - ber your good - ness,

to whom our ju - bi - lant prais - es be - long.
 God a - bove all gods, who gave us our birth.
 great is the one whom we wor - ship this day!
 trust in your word, and re - joice in your way!

Psalm 95, often called *Venite* from its first word in Latin, has long served as an opening canticle in the worship of Western Christianity. John Calvin found here two reasons to praise God: for sustaining the created world and for adopting the church into a gracious relationship.

182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10-14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5).

Christ Be Beside Me

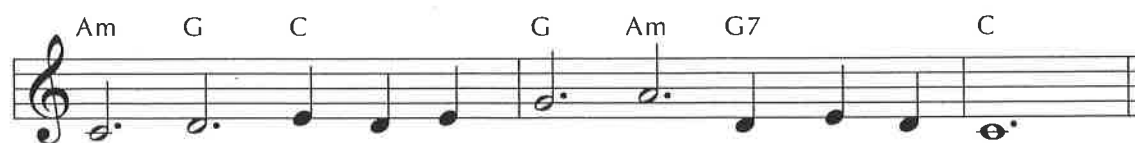
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1 Christ be be - side me; Christ be be - fore me; Christ be be -
 2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -
 3 Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me; Christ be on



hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with - in me; Christ be be -
 round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my
 all tongues tell - ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that



low me; Christ be a - bove me, nev - er to part.
 sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.
 see me; in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.

This text adapts part of a traditional Irish prayer associated with St. Patrick (see also no. 6). Such a prayer for protection is known as a *lorica*, from a Latin word for "breastplate" or "armor." It is set to a Gaelic melody that gained wide popularity in the 1970s.