

Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Preparation for Worship

"In Christ Alone"

*In Christ alone, I place my trust and find my glory in the power of the cross.
In every victory, let it be said of me, my source of strength,
my source of hope is Christ alone.*

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Welcome

It gives me great delight to welcome each one of you to worship on this Lord's Day. Just outside of Jerusalem is a little garden—the garden of Gethsemane. Jerusalem has always been a very crowded city where property is hard to come by and only the wealthy could purchase a private garden on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. This one was probably owned by a friend of the Lord and was a special place for him to go for rest, refreshment, and prayer. Gethsemane means "oil press." Evidently, it was a place where they would press and crush the olives from the trees to remove the oil. The name is significant because Jesus was about to be crushed and pressed, so the oil of salvation and hope could flow freely to the whole world. *-Pastor Karl*

Call to Worship

Prayer of Adoration

GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

Hymn of Praise #255

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

*Beneath the cross of Jesus, I gladly take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land,
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.*

*Upon that cross of Jesus my eye at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my smitten heart with tears, two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.*

*I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.*

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Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you have set before us the path of faith but we have attempted to find our own way. Sometimes we are like toddlers when we hear your call and come back. Other times, we are children testing boundaries, ignoring your call until fear finally makes us look back. And still other times, we are full of youthful rebellion, demanding to be cut loose, not knowing how much we still need your wisdom and guidance. But most often we think we are adults who have figured things out and go our own way, only to stumble and stray. Remind us, Father, that we are always your children, that we are never fully mature in your sight. We always have much to learn. Help us to seek you daily, acknowledging that we need your wisdom and guidance, helping us return to the path and to walk with you. In the name of Christ, our constant companion on the journey of faith, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Congregational Response #251

**I come to the cross seeking mercy and grace;
I come to the cross where you died in my place.
Out of my weakness and into your strength; humbly I come to the cross.
Your arms are open, you call me by name, you welcome this child that was lost.
You paid the price for my guilt and my shame;
Jesus I come, Jesus I come, Jesus, I come to the cross.**

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Time with the Children (Kids spell Love T-I-M-E)

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.

Prayer Response

***Calm me, Lord, as you calmed the storm; still me, Lord, keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease, enfold me, Lord, in your peace.
Calm me, Lord, as you calmed the storm; still me, Lord, keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease, enfold me, Lord, enfold me in your peace.***

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Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Scripture

Mark 14:32-50

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 34 "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." 35 Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if

possible the hour might pass from him. 36 "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." 37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? 38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." 39 Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. 40 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. 41 Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!" 43 Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. 44 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." 45 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46 The men seized Jesus and arrested him. 47 Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 48 "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? 49 Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." 50 Then everyone deserted him and fled. (NIV)

Sermon

"The Garden"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – from the Larger Catechism

Christ humbled himself in His death, in that having been betrayed by Judas, forsaken by His disciples, scorned and rejected by the world, condemned by Pilate, and tormented by His persecutors; having also conflicted with the terrors of death and the powers of darkness, felt and borne the weight of God's wrath, He laid down His life an offering for sin, enduring the painful, shameful, and cursed death of the cross.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn

"In Christ Alone"

1. In Christ alone, my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all-in-all, here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love, and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am His and He is mine bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death - This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand;
till He returns or calls me home - here in the power of Christ I'll stand.
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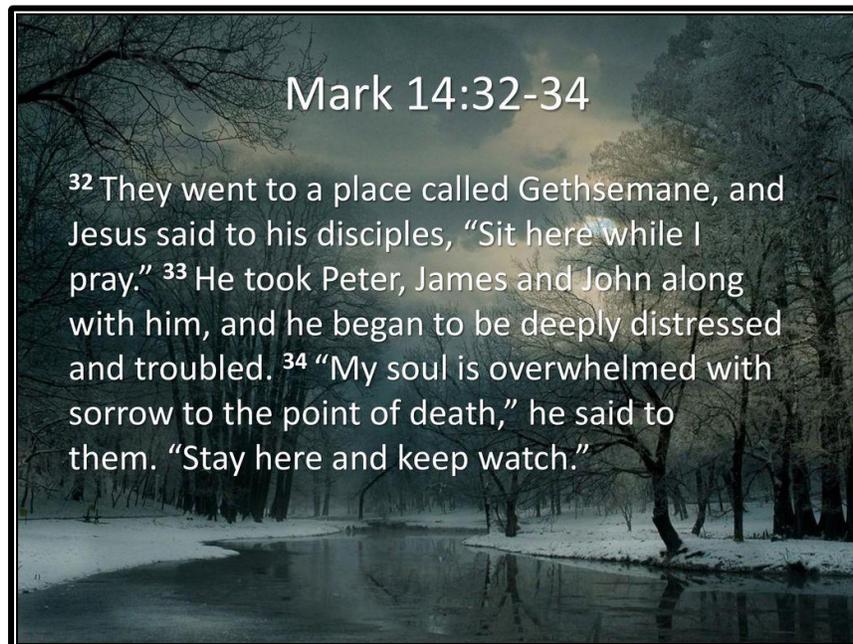
Benediction

Thank you for worshiping with us!



On Palm Sunday all baptized believers have an opportunity to renew their Baptismal Vows in worship. It is a tradition at Ken Mawr to begin Holy Week with a reaffirmation of our Baptism and a renewal of our faith commitment as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. We hope you will join us Palm Sunday as we reaffirm our Baptismal Vows.

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Mark 14:32-34

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴ "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."