

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday in Lent

March 31, 2019

Rev. Rosemary McMahan, Interim Pastor

Elder Ceil Hydrick, Liturgist

Mavis Stephens, Choir Director

Dr. Jeff Gilbreath, Pianist

Our guest minister today is Rev. Peggy McClure.

Prelude "The Name of Jesus Medley" Dr. Gilbreath

We Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

Pastor's Welcome (Please sign the friendship roster.)

Call to Worship Elder Hydrick

Elder: From the east and the west,

ALL: From the north and the south,

Elder: We come to dwell in God's steadfast love.

ALL: God's love heals, forgives, and welcomes all!

Elder: We are God's people, gathered from many places to give thanks and to proclaim God's steadfast love.

ALL: His gift of love has no end.

Elder: We receive this gift with open hearts and open hands.

ALL: We are ready to worship and to serve.

Prayer of Adoration Elder Hydrick

*Hymn of Worship "When Morning Gilds the Skies" #667
Please pass your prayer cards to the aisle for pickup.

Call to Confession: We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us, therefore, freely confess our sins using the Prayer of Confession:

Prayer of Confession: **God of grace and mercy, Lent is often a difficult time for us. Our relationship with you is not what it could be. Following Jesus is hard work, and sin clings to our lives, breaking our relationship with one another, leading us away from you. Forgive us and help us to turn back to you. May we continue to walk this Lenten journey with you knowing it is you who redeems, forgives, and heals. May we follow the light of life, the source of love. Amen.** (We offer our own silent confessions . . .)

Hymn "O Lamb of God" #555

Assurance of Pardon

Leader Brother and sisters, God is rich in mercy, making us live together in fellowship with Christ. By grace we have been saved. Receive forgiveness and live in abundant love!

People: Thanks be to God!

The Peace: Forgiven and redeemed, let us share the peace of Christ. (Please share the peace of Christ with those near you.)

*Gloria Patri #581

Anthem "I Come to the Cross" Choir

We Listen for the Word

Prayer for Illumination Elder Hydrick

Scripture Reading Psalm 107:1-3 Elder Hydrick

Scripture Reading Luke 23:32-38 Rev. McClure

Message "Can You Forgive?" Rev. McClure

*Hymn of Reflection "O Jesus, I Have Promised" #724

We Respond to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith from A Brief Statement of Faith:

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. This we believe.

Prayers of the People (debts/debtors)

Offertory "He Hideth My Soul" Dr. Gilbreath

*Doxology #606

*Prayer

We Go Forth to Minister

*Hymn of Sending "Be Thou My Vision" #450

*Charge & Benediction Rev. McClure

Postlude "Glory to His Name" Dr. Gilbreath

*All that are able are invited to stand.

Bold italic type indicates our shared response.

To Our Visitors & Guests:

Welcome! It is a blessing to have you in worship with us today. We warmly invite your participation in the worship, fellowship, and ministry of this congregation where everyone is welcome as God's child. The pastor is available to answer any questions you might have after worship or by email or phone. There is a place for you here, and we are delighted to have you with us today.

From Pastor Rosemary:

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent, and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith, it remains a time to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship. How well are we living into our covenant with God through Jesus Christ? We miss the majesty of Easter Sunday if we miss the preparation offered during Lent.

In order to prepare each week of our Lenten journey, the scriptures and sermon title will be listed in the hopes that you will read them and listen to what Jesus might be saying to you. Next week's road map includes "Where is Your Emmaus?" Exod. 17: 1-7; Luke 24: 13-16; 28-29. May you experience a blessed Lenten season.

Please welcome Rev. Peggy A. McClure to worship.

The Reverend Peggy McClure received her Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta; J.D. degree from Cumberland Law School at Samford University in Birmingham; and B.A degree in Political Science and M.A. degree in Secondary Education from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Peggy's career has been three-fold as a minister, lawyer and teacher. She has served as pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Decatur, First Presbyterian Church of Trussville, and the Executive Director of Community Grief Support Service in Birmingham. Her legal career was mostly with U.S. Steel Corporation where she was the head of its Law Department. In addition, she taught in the public schools in Alabama, Washington state and the American High School in Heidelberg, Germany.

Peggy serves on the Huntsville Symphony Board and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Board, and a member of the Rotary Club of Huntsville. She is also a member of the Commission on Ministry (COM) of the North Alabama Presbytery. She moved to Huntsville in 2013 to be near her family including two grandchildren, Reid 9, and Sloane 8. Her son, Dr. Steven Werdehoff, is an Emergency Room Physician at Huntsville Hospital.

A written copy of each week's sermon is available on the website at
www.standrewdecatour.org.

Welcome to



***“Growing in Faith; Sharing the Good News;
Living in God's Love.”***

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Scripture Reading Elder Ceil Hydrick: Psalm 107:1-3

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Scripture Reading Rev. McClure: Luke 23:32-38

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."* And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."