



Fifth Sunday in Lent March 17, 2024 at 11:00 am

Welcome to Oakmont Presbyterian Church!

*We are pleased to have you join us for worship today.
So that you may feel at home with us, please note the following:*

Visitor Parking spaces may be found in the Dogwood Way parking lot and across the street in the Oak Ridge Condo upper and lower parking lots.

The Nursery is available and staffed during the 11:00 am service for infants to 4 years old; 10:45-12:10.

Large Print Bulletins and **Children's Worship bags** are available from the ushers.

To preserve the atmosphere of worship, **please turn off** all electronic devices.

An asterisk (*) in the worship liturgy indicates that all may stand in body or spirit.

Hearing Assistance - Our sanctuary has two options for those needing hearing assistance: **receivers with headphones** which are available from the AV Team at the soundboard and **Bluetooth/WiFi Assisted Listening System** for use with smartphones (headphones or earbuds required) or Bluetooth hearing aids. *To utilize the Bluetooth/WiFi system:* 1) join the sanctuary WiFi network – OPCAV; 2) enter the password Oak\$\$1522 3) on your smart phone download WaveCAST APP from the Google Play or Apple Store; 4) Open WaveCAST app and click on "Service Broadcast." If "Service Broadcast" is not listed, fully close the app and try again. Audio will start playing automatically upon selection.

GATHERING IN FAITH

"Certainty of death. Small chance of success. What are we waiting for?" Spoken by Gimli the Dwarf after deciding to instigate a hopeless battle the outcome of which would likely dictate the future of the West. *The Return of the King* in the three-part film *The Lord of the Rings*.

Welcome

Tim Spring

Please sign, pass and return Friendship Record pads during this time of announcements.

Trinity Chimes

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Prelude

Organ

Dame's Violets † An original composition for organ – see Worship Notes Elizabeth Pompa

Call to Worship

Leader: *Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before God's presence with a song.*

People: **Know this: the Lord is God alone; we belong to the Lord, who made us, we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

Leader: *Enter God's gates with thanksgiving; go into the holy courts with praise; give thanks and call upon the name of the Lord.*

People: **For good is the Lord, whose mercy is everlasting; and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

*Hymn of Praise

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Hymnal, No. 298

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.**

*Prayer of the Day (please remain standing)

Steve Crocco

Call to Confession

Tim Spring

Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, You have given us a rich and godly heritage, through the sure testimony and holy example of our mothers and fathers in the faith. But we let the light of our faith grow dim; we stray from the paths they commend to us.

....moment of silent personal confession

Loving God, forgive us, and renew us by Your Holy Spirit. Fan in us a new and brighter flame of faith that, like those who have gone before us, our words and deeds would mightily declare the good news of Your salvation, given to all in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, that if you are in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

*Act of Praise

Congregation Singing

Gloria Patri/Glory Be to the Father

Hymnal, No. 579

**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.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Susan Sanford

Gospel Reading

John 11:1-16

Pew Bible, NT, page 104

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Time with the Children
As the children gather

Where Children Belong

Tim Spring
Congregation Singing



WORDS: James Ritchie
MUSIC: James Ritchie

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RITCHIE
Irregular

Children go to JAM after time with children.

Sermon

Let Us Also Go with Him

Steve Crocco

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of Response

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Hymnal, No.92

**Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would 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 mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.**

Faith Community Concerns, the Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Tim Spring

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.

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

Call to Offering

Steve Crocco

A Choral Offering

Chancel Choir

O Love † (see Worship Notes)

Elaine Hagenberg

*O Love, O Love, O Love, that will not let me go,
O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give thee back the life I owe,
That in Thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.*

*O Joy, that seeks me through the pain,
O Joy I cannot close my heart to Thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be
that morn shall tearless be.*

*O Love, that will not let me go,
O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe,
I give Thee back the life I owe, and in
Thy ocean depths its flow shall richer, fuller be that morn shall tearless be.*

O Love, O Love, O Love, that will not let me go.
- George Matheson

*Doxology Hymnal No. 592

using tune: *OLD HUNDREDTH*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*Closing Hymn

Lift High the Cross

Hymnal, No. 371
See bulletin page 5

*Charge and Blessing

Steve Crocco

Postlude

Organ

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG/Lowell Mason/arr. Albin C. Whitworth

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God.
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

-Isaac Watts

Lift High the Cross

George William Kitchin (1827-1912)
Rev. by Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916; alt.
Refrain and Descant

CRUCIFER 10.10 with refrain

Sidney Hugo Nicholson, 1916
Desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Till all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

Till all the world a - dore His sa - cred name. *Fine*

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied
3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Repeat Refrain

The Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
Your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

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Descant: Copyright © 1985 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. All rights reserved.

WORSHIP NOTES

Lent – A period of forty days (not counting Sundays) before Easter, Lent was originally a period of preparation for those to be baptized at Easter. It later became a time of penitence for all Christians. Thus, it emulated the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry, resisting temptations. Christians often fast or give up various things during Lent to remind them of Christ's sacrifice and to overcome destructive habits. Christians may also take on disciplines as they learn new habits that are constructive and useful for disciples of Jesus Christ. The liturgical color of the Lenten season is purple (symbolizing penitence). Gray and other deep earth tones, along with burlap (sackcloth) and other rough textures, may also be used.

† ***Dame's Violets* – Prelude:** an original composition for organ by composer Elizabeth Pompa.

The dedication in the score reads as follows: *This music is commissioned as a gift to Oakmont Presbyterian Church to honor and thank Michael Frank III for his many years of service as Minister of Music. His love of the Lord and music draw us to a higher place in our weekly worship.* Given by David J. Barr and premiered Sunday March 17, 2024.

About the piece:

This piece is dedicated to my favorite wildflower. The *Hesperis matronalis*. This is an herbaceous flowering plant species in the family Brassicaceae. It has numerous common names, including dame's rocket, damask-violet, dame's violet, dames-wort, dame's gilliflower, and many more. I fell in love with this flower as a child, it took me years to figure out what the name of the flower was. Ever since, I've wanted to write a piece that I think would capture this flower. So I wrote *Dame's Violets*. I was asked by David Barr to write this piece and dedicate it to Michael Frank III. It's truly been a wonderful honor to make this piece have 2 different meanings, for Michael's dedication to the church, and to dedicate my favorite flower as well.

About the composer:

Elizabeth Pompa was born in 2002 and currently resides in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. She is currently finishing her Bachelor's in Composition for Media at Duquesne University. During her undergraduate years, many of her works were premiered by the Duquesne University wind bands, including her piece *CLEPSYDRA*, which premiered at the District 1 West PMEA festival. Pompa's aspirations are to continue creating music that brings joy to listeners and performers alike.

† ***O Love* – today's Choral Offering:** an anthem by composer Elaine Hagenberg, is given to the music ministry by J. Thomas (Tom) Taylor in deep appreciation for the welcome, love, and support of the Chancel Choir and Maestro Michael Frank. (Jan. 2024)

Worship next Sunday, March 24 – 8:30 and 11:00 am in the Sanctuary.

Palm/Passion Sunday. Rev. Tim Spring will preach *THE ROADS LESS TRAVELLED: The Road to Jerusalem* based on Luke 19:28-44.

Early Worship at 8:30 am – a more intimate service, approximately 45 minutes, with a simple worship order including the sermon and two congregational hymns with piano accompaniment.

Service for The Lord's Day at 11:00am. This traditional worship service includes a fuller liturgy, with sermon and congregational hymns. A variety of musical styles are offered by our various choirs accompanied by the pipe organ, piano and other musical instruments. Sharing in the Ministry of Music for Palm Sunday will be the Children's Choir, The JuBELLation Ringers handbell choir, the Chancel Choir and guest trumpeter, Matthew Diehl.

One Great Hour of Sharing - For over 70 years, One Great Hour has provided Presbyterians with a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. In a world of disaster, wars, hunger and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are:

- *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)*, receives 32% of funds raised - OPC supports PDA directly. PDA works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after devastation due to natural or human-caused disasters. PDA also supports refugees.
- *Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)*, receives 36% of amount raised. PHP takes action to alleviate hunger and works to reduce poverty that leads to hunger.
- *Self-Development of People (SDOP)* invests in communities responding to their experience of oppression, poverty and injustice, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues. SDOP receives 32% of funds raised.

One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes are available in your weekly giving envelopes box and are also available in the pews through Easter.

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- *The Presbyterian Hymnal – Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.
- *Where Children Belong - Sing the Faith* © 2003 by Geneva Press; adapted and compiled by permission from *The Faith We Sing* © 2000 Abingdon Press. Music/text: James Ritchie.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekday Bible Study – Bible study **on Wednesdays in Small Group Room**. Our study will consider the book of Hosea, one of the minor prophets, beginning with Hosea 1:1-2:13.

OPC Film Series - Join us at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. Brochures are available in the vestibules. Elevator door entrance opens at 6:15 pm.

APR 5 – *The Hill* (2023)

APR 19 – *Golda* (2023)

Men's Breakfast Fellowship - join us on Tuesday **APR 2 at 8:30 am in the Dining Room**. Breakfast is served family style at 8:30 so come a few minutes early. Our goal is to provide a good breakfast, an interesting program after the breakfast and an opportunity to make new friends and see old friends.

APR 2 –Chuck Erdeljac, “Oakmont’s Poet” and former Riverview school superintendent, will present on the topic: *How Martin Luther changed the Church and the World: Implications for Us Today*.

Chancel Flowers –**In keeping with our Lenten tradition, flowers will not be used during Lent.** Please consider providing flowers in the chancel again beginning on **April 7** and onward. Please contact Carla Lowman for details at 412-826-5914.

Your OPC Family Cares About You! There are times when you are ill, in the hospital or in emotional need and we don't know about it, please remember to contact the church office (412.828.5770) or a staff member so we can support you in your time of need. You are loved!

Prayer Requests - Members of our church will pray for you and anyone in need. Please send prayer requests to: prayers@oakmontpresby.org or contact Carol Heimerich at 412.242.1028.

Deacons - Food Donations - Thank you for your donations to the food banks at RCAC and Verona Methodist Church supporting families in our community. Please continue to place donations in the shopping carts or drop off financial donations to the office/collection plate. Questions – contact Judy Murray at 724-816-7561. **For the month of March**, Deacons will be **collecting ladies spring and summer clothing**. The bin will be in the 5th Street vestibule. If you need something picked up contact Bobbie Lio 412-310-8807.

Soups On met FEB 15 and made *Cheesy Corn Chowder*, *Chicken Noodle Soup*, and *Tuscan Veg Soup*. Stop down at the kitchen freezer and take a container to a friend, neighbor, or relative who needs a cup of cheer and to see your smiling face! Next Soups On will meet **MAR 21**.

Youth Italian Sub Sale on Palm Sunday, MAR 24 following 11:00 worship service, sale is for pre-orders, but limited extras will be available. Payment is by donation for youth mission.

Becoming a Part of the OPC Family of Faith New Member Gathering – We at OPC are a diverse group of people who find meaning in gathering together for worship, study and service. Gatherings for those interested in becoming a part of the OPC family of faith will be ***Sundays, April 7, 14 and 21 from 9:30 am – 10:30 am in the Marie Berg Chapel***. **New members will be received during worship on Sunday, May 12 during the 11:00 am worship service**. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Tim Spring at tspring@oakmontpresby.org or through the church office at 412.828.5770.

Name Tags - The Lord knows you by name, but sometimes our ministers need a little help. To aid them, we are providing name tags to the congregation and encourage you to please wear them to church. These name tags are yours, so find a place that's easy to find when you come to church. The name tags can be found in the 5th Street vestibule. Stop by and pick yours up!
Please note: these magnetic name tags are NOT recommended for those with a pacemaker.

ON THE WAY TO EASTER...

With John's Gospel



"Coffee and Conversation"
Oakmont Presbyterian Church

Sundays

March 3– 24, 2024

9:30 – 10:30 am

The Gospel of John is unique among the New Testament accounts of Jesus Christ's life. The other three gospel writers take a more biographical approach to His life and ministry. John presents a more reflective account of the meaning of Jesus' coming. He also shines light on the personalities and motivations of people who interact with Jesus.

March 3	<i>John: A "Spiritual Gospel"</i>
March 10	<i>The Jews: Authorities and Leading Citizens</i>
March 17	<i>The Romans: Pilate and Soldiers</i>
March 24	<i>The Disciples: Peter, John, and Mary Magdalene</i>

Dr. James E. Davison served at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper St. Clair, and Sterling College in Kansas. Jim has written a number of books and articles on biblical topics, including the PC(USA) congregational program, "The Year of the Bible." He now lives at Longwood and makes Oakmont Presbyterian Church his home congregation.

Come early for coffee and a donut hole (or two)!

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT @ OPC

MARCH 20

6:30 – Soup and Salad Supper (Dining Room)

7:15 pm – Worship (Friendship Hall)

Spiritual Disciplines: Guidance

Reflections – Rev. Tim Spring

Worship – with Jazz influenced music

Music Ministry: Mark Jackovic/The Jazz Influence

JuBELLation Ringers handbell choir

Laura Amos, vocal soloist

Wednesday Lenten Suppers ~ 6:30 pm

Lenten suppers are held at 6:30 pm in the Dining Room. You are invited to join us for a simple supper of salad and soup. The soup will be provided by Dan and Linda McCurdy from the Oakmont Deli. The meal gathering is a wonderful opportunity to meet and get to know others in the church.

Wednesday Lenten Worship in Friendship Hall ~ 7:15 pm

In our mid-week Lenten worship, our focus will be on Spiritual Disciplines. *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster will serve as the basis for our mid-week Lenten worship series this year. The book has sold more than 2,000,000 copies and has been named one of the top ten books of the twentieth century by *Christianity Today*.

March 20 Our final service in the series will be on March 20th and will focus on the Discipline of *Confession*. Our worship will be using music from the Jazz style.

Sharing in the Ministry of Music will be guest musicians – Mark Jackovic (Saxophone) and *The Jazz Influence* -piano/bass/drums, along with our own JuBELLation Ringers, handbell choir and vocalist Laura Amos.

If you cannot make the Soup Supper, but are able to be with us by 7:15, please feel free to join us as your schedule will allow.



**MARK JACKOVIC
& THE JAZZ INFLUENCE**

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	March 17 – 5th Sunday in Lent
8:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
9:30 am	Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room)
10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:15 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level)
11:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream & children's JAM (K-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)
12:05 pm	Chancel Choir Help Session (Choir Room)
MONDAY	March 18
12:00 pm	AA's (Small Group Room)
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop #854/Cub Pack #137 (MPR/DR)
TUESDAY	March 19
10:00 am	Oakmont Garden Club Luncheon/Meeting (Lower Level)
7:00 pm	Deacons (Dining Room)
WEDNESDAY	March 20
10:00 am	Women's AA (Multi-Purpose Room)
12:15 pm	Staff (Small Group Room)
4:30 pm	JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (Sanctuary/Friendship Hall)
6:30 pm	Lenten Supper (Dining Room)
7:15 pm	Lenten Worship – <i>The Jazz Influence</i> (Friendship Hall)
THURSDAY	March 21
10:00 am	Soup's On (Kitchen)
6:00 pm	Easter Trombone Quartet/Percussion Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
8:00 pm	NA's (Dining Room)
FRIDAY	March 22
SATURDAY	March 23
8:00 pm	AA's (Dining Room)
SUNDAY	March 24 – Palm Sunday
8:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
9:30 am	Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room)
9:30 am	JuBELLation Ringers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:15 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal (Upper Level)
11:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream & children's JAM (K-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)



HOLY WEEK / EASTER AT OPC 2024

PALM SUNDAY – March 24 at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Distribution of Palm Crosses

Rev. Dr. Tim Spring preaching: *THE ROADS LESS TRAVELLED: The Road to Jerusalem*

Palm Sunday Processional

Ministry of Music: JuBELLation Ringers, Children's Choir and Chancel Choir

MAUNDY THURSDAY – March 28 at 7:00 pm

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

Rev. Dr. Tim Spring preaching

Ministry of Music: Chancel Choir

GOOD FRIDAY – March 29 at 8:00 pm

Noon - Community Good Friday Service at St. Thomas Episcopal Church (378 Delaware Ave.)

8:00 pm - *Service of Tenebrae* at OPC

preceded by *Prelude for Good Friday* at 7:40 pm (organ)

A dramatic service of shadows, darkness, scripture, and music that enables participants to reflect deeply on the events of Christ's last week leading to the crucifixion.

Led by the Chancel Choir and Lay Readers.

EASTER SUNDAY – March 31 at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Festival of the Resurrection of The Lord

Rev. Dr. Tim Spring preaching: *THE ROADS LESS TRAVELLED: The Road to the Empty Tomb*

Ministry of Music at 11:00 am:

Chancel Choir, Trombone Quartet, Piano, Organ, Percussion

Invite a friend or neighbor to join you at our services!



OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Tim E. Spring	Interim Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Crocco	Associate Pastor
Michael P. Frank, III	Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Ronnie Bailey	Education Director for Children and Youth
Maureen Stecik	Program Staff Assistant
Tracy Messenger	Financial Secretary of Accounting
Marge Kuhn	Financial Secretary of Contributions
David Brennan	Custodian
Roberta Erickson	Handbell Choir Director
Ron Burkert	AV Team Coordinator
The Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson	Honorably Retired Pastor Emeritus

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