

SERVING THE CHURCH This Week Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse Ushers: Ronnie Storch Linda Stenhouse	SERVING THE CHURCH Next Week Liturgist: Judy Rainey Ushers: Jackie Koch
Elder of the Month For March: Barb Daugherty, 864-234-0143	
SESSION MEMBERS	
<u>Class of 2024</u> Linda Stenhouse Jackie Koch Candie Vaitkevicius	<u>Class of 2025</u> Barb Daugherty Bill Marshall NS Linda Marshall



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Office Hours: Mon.-Thur. 8:30-10:30 a.m.
 510 East Curtis Street * Simpsonville, SC 29681 * (864) 963-8854
www.simpsonvillepres.com E-mail: office@simpsonvillepres.com
 Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch, Pastor
 Darrell Johnson, Pianist Jackie Koch, Office Administrator
 The WiFi Identity is FPCS-Guest and the password to connect is Grace4all.

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Simpsonville Presbyterian Church
 Simpsonville, SC

"Growing Together in Faith - Loving and Serving in the World"

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING

March 17, 2024

5th Sunday in Lent

Welcome, announcements

Prayers and Concerns

Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch has office hours on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.—Noon. For an appointment, please call the Church office.

Please note that the wearing of masks during service and singing hymns is optional. NOTE: This service may be video recorded.

Please stand if you are able where asterisk.

PRELUDE

"At the Cross"

arr. Waller

***OUR CALL TO WORSHIP**

Linda Stenhouse, Liturgist

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

People: According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.

Leader: You desire truth in our deepest selves, so teach our hearts wisdom.

People: Let us hear your joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God; put new and right spirits within us.

All: Sustain in us willing spirits and restore us to the joy of your salvation. Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN: "Here in This Place (Gather Us In) (bulletin pg. 7)**

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF OUR SIN (unison prayer)

Living Christ, with whom we journey to the cross, we confess that we are always looking for an easier way. We long for the fullness of life with you, but we are slow to abandon the comforts of the life we know. We seek the fruit of new life, but we are not willing to die to ourselves. You call us to life in community, but we stubbornly cling to "me and mine." Yet you offer the grace of life abundant, even and especially when our best efforts fall short. Transform us, renew us, and

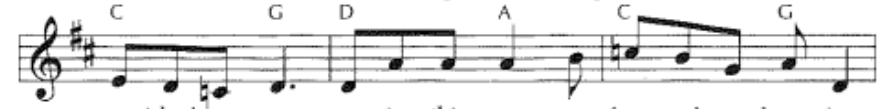
Here in This Place

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Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

VIDEO RECORDINGS: Video recordings of services that have been previously recorded are available on the Church's website: www.simpsonvillepres.com. Click on "Videos" in the menu at the top or click on the picture of a worship service in the lower right.

EASTER FLOWERS: Easter lilies will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter. If you purchased a lily for someone special, and indicated that you wanted to take your flower(s) home please do so after the Easter service. A list of honorees will be in the Easter bulletin.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: Envelopes for this special offering will be in the bulletins for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. One Great Hour of Sharing is the largest way Presbyterians work together to move in solidarity with our neighbors in need around the globe in over 100 countries and right here at home. Your gift will make an impact as we continually learn to follow Christ.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will meet on Thursday, March 21st, at 11 a.m. at the Church.

LOG SPECIAL SERVICES: LOG will use the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, March 28th at 6 p.m. for their Maundy Thursday service and on Friday, March 29th at 7 p.m. for Good Friday service.

If you would like to host a fellowship dinner in your home in 2024, please sign up on the sheet on the back table.

Coming Next Sunday:

Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29/Mark 11:1-11

Sermon: "A Triumphant Entry?"

free us from our attachment to what was, so that you might bring us into the glory of what will be. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! We worship a God who forgives our iniquities and remembers our sins no more. Proclaim the good news with me:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE: "We Are Forgiven"

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

HYMN #371 "Lift High the Cross"

SILENT PRAYER: A few moments of silent communication with God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34/John 12:20-26

SERMON: "We Would See Jesus" Rev. Dr. Mary Ann Welch

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER (the offering plate is located on a back table in the sanctuary just inside the back double doors.)

OFFERTORY "O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" arr. Dengler

*The Doxology

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #423 "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE: "May the Grace of Christ Our Savior"

*May the grace of Christ our Savior
And the Father's boundless love
With the Holy Spirit's favor,
Rest upon us from above.
Thus may we abide in union
With each other and the Lord,
And possess, in sweet communion,
Joys which earth cannot afford.*

POSTLUDE

"Kind Maker of the World"

Fleurs des Noels

WELCOME TO SIMPSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN! Whether you are a long-time member or first time visitor, we are glad you are here. If you would like to learn more about the Simpsonville Presbyterian community, we invite you to contact us through our website www.simpsonvillepres.com, or by calling the church office at (864)963-8854.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS today are given by Linda & Bill Marshall. Thank you.

REFRESHMENTS today are given by Linda Stenhouse. Thank you.

BIBLE STORY BAGS are available for children during worship. See an usher if you would like one for your child to use. Please return the bag to an usher after worship.

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Paula Ely, Sharon Flesch

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: None

LIFE IN THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER CONCERNS: Sam Orr (friend of Linda Marshall); Donnett Hanson; Jean Kirkland; Alice Grooms; family of Bill Marshall (PA); Sue Marshall's mother; Robbie Herd; Tina Minnich (daughter of Candie & Joe); Linda Moseley (granddaughter of Jean Kirkland); family of Linda Russell (friend of Jimmy Cheeks); Everett (sister of Donnett); Debra Datko; Sue Aeillo (friend of Jackie); Lisa Shelf; Hazel Cain (aunt of Linda Marshall); Dixie Suit (sister-in-law of Kitty Shealy); Roger Edney (relative of Barb & Roger Daugherty). Do not hesitate to call or email the Church Office (office@simpsonvillepres.com) about any pastoral concerns.

SCHEDULES AND EVENTS

FOOD PANTRY: Your continued prayers and giving hearts allow us to keep this mission to our neighbors going. Suggestions for the month of March are personal products, especially body wash and shampoo. As always, we are grateful for all donations. **The Pantry is seeking volunteers to be "shoppers" for necessary items. If you would like to help, please see Candie.**