



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 30, 2025

4th Sunday in Lent

Gathering

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #216 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

***Call to Worship** (from Psalm 32)

Worship Leader

Leader: In times of trouble, in days of fear,

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Leader: When we are lost and lonely, not sure of our place,

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Leader: When we are hard-hearted and cynical,

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Leader: When we struggle to believe God’s promise of redemption,

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Leader: Together we look to God to teach us the way we should go.

People: Steadfast love surrounds us, as together we place our trust in the Lord.

A Time for Children

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

Gathering Prayer

Teresa Greenawalt

Call to Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Prayer of Confession (from the Book of Common Worship)

Dr. Yvan Kelly

People: Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name.

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News! When anyone is united to Christ, there is a new world.

People: The old order has gone, and a new order has begun.

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

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

Word

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

Teresa Greenawalt

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and

celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

“A Journey of Grace”

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Middle Hymn**

“Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”

***Affirmation of Faith**

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 sitteth on the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge
the quick 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.**

Prayers and Offering

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.

Giving Thanks to God with Our Gifts and Offerings

Offertory Song

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

People: Lord of all, we give you thanks for your unfailing love. All that we have, all that we are, is a gift from you, and we return it to you now with thanks and praise. Take and bless what we offer here today, that it may be used to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, care for the suffering, and to share the good news of your redeeming love with the world. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Sending

***Closing Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Charge and Blessing

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Announcements

One Great Hour of Sharing - During the Lenten Season, we will collect offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing, which provides relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. To support this offering, special envelopes can be found in the friendship pads for you to use. Fish coin banks are available for your children to collect their coins in and participate in this special offering.

Candy Collection for Breakfast with the Easter Bunny - We are collecting individually wrapped candy for the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny event. If you would like to donate candy, please bring it in and place it in the bin in the office.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt April 5 - Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt will be held this Saturday, April 5. Breakfast is from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., pictures with the Easter Bunny are from 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., and the Easter egg hunt is promptly at 10:30 a.m. A registration form can be found on the table in the narthex and in tomorrow's newsletter. Be sure to bring your own basket for the egg hunt.

Thrivent Shred Events - Thrivent is holding several shred events. More information can be found on the sheet in the narthex and in tomorrow's newsletter.

Church Clean-up April 12 - The Saturday before Palm Sunday, April 12, is church cleanup day to prepare for Easter. Be there by 8:00 a.m. with rakes, shovels, and trash bags. Trimming tools are also helpful as we clean the memorial garden and other flower beds.

Bunko April 12 - The next Bunko night will be held on Saturday, April 12, at 6:00 p.m. No experience is needed and it is fun for all ages. A \$10.00 donation is asked for each person and includes dessert. All proceeds go to the church's building and grounds fund.

Session Meeting April 13 - The Session will meet on Sunday, April 13, following worship.

Maundy Thursday Service April 17 - On Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m. we will have a Maundy Thursday service. Everyone is invited to attend.

Easter Sunday Services April 20 - On Sunday, April 20, we will hold two services. Our sunrise service will begin at 7:00 a.m. in the Memory Garden and our traditional Easter Sunday service will be held in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.

Financial Giving - You may place your offering in the offering plate, drop off a check at the office, put it in the mail, or use our online giving portal that can be accessed [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the right.



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