



First & Central

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

1101 North Market Street
Rodney Square
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
302-654-5371
www.fandc.org

A Service for the Worship of God

March 7, 2010

A Service for the Worship of God
Third Sunday in Lent

11:00 a.m.

THE CHURCH GATHERS

GREETING AND WELCOME

Douglas D. Gerdt

SILENT MOMENT

VOLUNTARY

Präludium

Felix Mendelssohn

OPENING SENTENCES

Gail O'Donnell

One: O Lord, I will bless you as long as I live.

All: **I will lift up my hands and call upon your name.**

One: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast.

All: **My mouth praises you with joyful lips.**

One: I praise you, O God, for you have been my help.

All: **In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**

*HYMN 356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jenny Warren

Forgive us, O God, for we have been prone to wander from your will. We have not lived up to the faith we profess. Our hearts are more distracted than devoted. Our lives do not bear the fruit that you've planted within us. For our lack of commitment and compassion, forgive us. For our lack of devotion and weakness of will, forgive us. Renew in us a desire to grow in the faith you've given us, and a willingness to be changed and led by you. Hear our prayers, O God ...

A time for silent prayers of confession



Lamb of God, who takes a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, who takes a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, who takes a-way the sin of the world, grant us — peace.

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*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE

Hymn 483, Stanza, 1

**Sing praise to God, who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, The God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul is filled, And every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!**

*ACT OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May the reading and hearing of your Word today, O God, feed and nurture our spiritual growth, and strengthen the roots of our faith. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 13:1-9

New Testament page 76



The word of the Lord. Thanks be — to — God.

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CHILDREN'S GREETING

*Worship Bags are provided for children who remain in worship,
and infants through 3 years old are invited to the nursery.*

ANTHEM

A rose touched by the sun's warm rays

Jean Berger

A rose touched by the sun's warm rays, all its petals gently does unfold; so you, when touched by God's great mercy, let joy and gladness win your soul.

SERMON

The Story Doesn't End

Dr. Gerdts

THE PEOPLE RESPOND

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory

O rest in the Lord (from Elijah)

Felix Mendelssohn

Carolyn DalMonte, mezzo-soprano

O rest in the Lord; wait patiently for him; and he shall give thee thy heart's desires. Commit thy way unto him, and trust in him, and fret not thyself because of evildoers.

*Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymn 591

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

One: As a people of faith, we approach this table with humility and joy. Ours is a community who claims Jesus Christ as the source of power in our lives; and it is in Christ's name that we strike down the barriers between us and invite all who come in love to approach the table as sisters and brothers.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer ("debts")

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Holy God, you speak to us in silence, yet all languages interpret you. Because you call us to be in community, we are able to become gift to one another. We invoke now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these

gifts, that in sharing them, we may discern your presence which becomes our life.

Organ

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
po - wer and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music © 2002 David Schelat

One: We remember and give thanks for those called out with a vision of possibility and promise: for Abraham and Sarah, for Isaac and Rebecca, for Jacob with Leah and Rachel, for Moses and Miriam, for the people who followed through the waters of the Red Sea into the wilderness of tempering search, until they became ready to enter the promised land.

All: We thank you for the openness of Mary who dared to accept the call to be the bearer and nurturer of your anointed one, Jesus. We bless you, O God that through his life, death, and resurrection fully lived the promise of redemptive wholeness. Therefore we rejoice to proclaim:

Organ

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

Music © 2002 David Schelat

One: As bread that was scattered on the hillside was gathered together and made one, so too, we, your people, scattered throughout the world, are gathered together around your table and become one.

All: So let us prepare to eat and drink as Jesus taught us: inviting the stranger to our table and welcoming the poor. May their absence remind us of the divisions that this Eucharist seeks to heal. And may their presence help transform us into the body of Christ.

One: With the confidence of the children of God, we pray together the prayer
Christ taught us:

All: Our Father ...

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Communion Music

Organ: *Andante tranquillo (from Sonata III)* Felix Mendelssohn

All: Hymn 507 *I Come with Joy* DOVE OF PEACE

Prayer

LEAVE TO SERVE

*HYMN 281 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY *Allegro* Felix Mendelssohn

One: Let all God's people say:

All: Amen!

**Please stand if you are comfortably able.*



The Season of Lent

The season of Lent is a time when the church gathers its energies and directs its life toward the great celebration of Easter, which is the high point of the Christian year. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes the Saturday prior to Easter. Traditionally, there are four important emphases for Christian worship during this season:

First, Lent is a time for remembering our baptism and renewing our baptismal vows.

Second, Lent is a time for the church to meditate on the meaning of the cross in Christian life and faith. The height and depth of Easter "alleluias" are directly proportional to the intensity of our awareness of Good Friday.

Third, Lent can be a period of increased attention to spiritual discipline and to our relationship with God. Many people begin or enhance a practice of daily personal worship by incorporating such things as: Scripture reading and study, prayer, self-offering, and commitments to service. An integral aspect of the discipline of daily personal worship is finding the times and places where one can focus on God's presence, hear God's Word, and respond to God's grace in prayer, self-offering, and commitment to service.

And fourth, Lent is a time of awareness of, and the need to confess, our sin. The mood of Lent is somber and solemn. We approach the cross knowing the sacrifice that it represents, and at the same time, recognizing that God uses the cross of Christ, and the crosses we take up daily, as instruments of grace and salvation.



This Week at First & Central First & Central

Welcome to First & Central Presbyterian Church! If you are a visitor this morning, please know that you are welcome and that the collective prayer of this congregation is that all who worship will know the loving presence of God.

Passing the Peace and cold and flu season! The practice of enthusiastically “passing the peace” at First & Central is a wonderful part of our morning and to ameliorate health concerns, small vials of hand sanitizer are clipped to the envelope holders in the pews – please feel free to refresh your hands after greeting your fellow worshippers!

Youth Greeters are Jimmy Butterfield and Alex Weinfeld.

The Acolyte is Izzy Weinfeld.

Youth Ushers are Cynthia Johnson and Becky Sukhu.

The Communion Bread Bearer is Nick Laughman.

The Chancel Flowers are given by JM Reinbold to the Glory of God and in memory of long time member, good friend and fellow writer, Helen Scott.

Would you like to give flowers for the Chancel? Sunday, March 14th is available, as well as Sunday, April 25th and all Sundays in May. Please call (654-5371) or email the church office (reinbold@fandc.org) with your order and dedication.



Easter Lilies: Would you like to give an Easter lily for the Chancel? Lilies cost \$10.50 each. Please use the form in the bulletin or call the church office at 654-5371 or email (reinbold@fandc.org) the church office **by Palm Sunday, March 28th** with number of lilies and your dedications.

Music Notes: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) was well known throughout Europe and England as a composer, conductor, pianist, and organist. He greatly admired the music of J. S. Bach, and in 1829 conducted and produced a series of concerts that reintroduced to the general public the music of this great composer. He composed numerous organ works and compiled many of these into sonatas for an English

publishing company. Also for England, he composed his most famous choral work, the oratorio *Elijah*, for the Birmingham Music Festival in 1846.

Youth Group Italian Fiesta Fundraiser Lunch – TODAY after Church: All proceeds will go towards the Sr. High Summer Mission Trip. See you at the Italian Fiesta and thanks for your support!



The Labyrinth at First & Central is open on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Our Chartres/medieval style portable labyrinth is set up in Memorial Hall on the church’s lower level. Information on walking a labyrinth is available on the table outside Memorial Hall. If you have questions or need assistance, please ask for Joanne at the Church Office.

Thursday Noontime Concerts Return on March 4th!

12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. This spring boasts a variety of the best of regional musical talent – there is something for everyone to enjoy! On March 11th Bit O' Rhythm – Purveyors of Blues, Stomps & Rags featuring xylophonist Harvey Price and pianist Linda Henderson using the original instrumentation of early jazz to capture the essence of popular music of the past - music that is still popular today. Turn back the clock with this amazing duo! Admission is free. A \$2 donation is encouraged.



Winter Sanctuary: From November until the end of March: F & C opens Memorial Hall every Saturday morning from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. to provide a safe, welcoming place for anyone who needs it. If you would like to volunteer or just see what this ministry is about, please stop by any Saturday. You can also support the Winter Sanctuary program with donations of coffee, creamer, hot chocolate, current magazines, and crossword, word search, and Sudoku puzzle books. Donations can be left in the church office. For more information please contact Debby Tennant at 366-8761 or watton@webtv.net.

Explorers' Forum in March

9:30 a.m. on Sundays in the DuVal Room

March 14th: *Is There Life After Death?* presented by Alan Fox, PhD concludes

March 21st: *Rodney Street Tennis and Tutoring* presented by Harry Shur

March 28th: *Quaker Spirituality, Learning and Practice* presented by
Wilmington Friends School

Calendar for the Week of March 7, 2010

Third Sunday in Lent 3/7:

9:30 a.m. Nursery Care: (Infant – 3 yrs) – Nursery

9:30 a.m. Children's Music Program – 3rd Floor Music Room

9:30 a.m. Explorers Forum – DuVal Room

10:00 a.m. Faith, Learning & You Sunday School – Various Rooms

10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion Service – Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. Youth Group Italian Fiesta Fundraiser Lunch – Memorial Hall

12:30 p.m. Nominating Committee – Library

4:00 p.m. Cathedral Choir School Piano Benefit Concert – Sanctuary

Monday 3/8:

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting – Pastor's Office

7:15 p.m. Session Meeting – DuVal Room

Tuesday 3/9:

12:05 p.m. Center City Chorale Rehearsal – Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. Family Fellowship Bible Study – Chapel

6:45 p.m. Yoga Class – DuVal Room

Wednesday 3/10:

11:00 a.m. Labyrinth Walk – Memorial Hall

2:20 p.m. Tutoring – East Side Charter School

5:30 p.m. Basic Text Narc-Anon – DuVal Room

5:30 p.m. Wilmington Children's Chorus – Choir room, 208 and Chapel

Thursday 3/11:

12:30 p.m. Noontime Concert – Sanctuary

6:45 p.m. Yoga Class – DuVal Room

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Saturday 3/13:

8:30 a.m. Winter Sanctuary – Memorial Hall

Fourth Sunday in Lent 3/14: Daylight Savings Time Begins

9:30 a.m. Nursery Care: (Infant – 3 yrs) – Nursery

9:30 a.m. Children's Music Program – 3rd Floor Music Room

9:30 a.m. Explorers Forum – DuVal Room

10:00 a.m. Faith, Learning & You Sunday School – Various Rooms

10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

11:00 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Enrichment Class – 3rd Floor Enrichment Room

12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship – Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. Children, Youth & Parenting Council – Room 204

12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class – Room 208

12:30 p.m. Voice Lessons with Roni Gerry – 3rd Floor Music Room

Daylights Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 14th





OUR LENTEN CALENDAR

Special Services and Events throughout Lent

The beginning of Holy Week is **Palm Sunday (March 28, 2010)**. The service begins with a joyful procession with palm fronds and moves through the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and concludes with the crowds chanting for his crucifixion.

Jesus last gathered with his disciples in an upper room in which they broke bread and shared a cup of wine. On **Maundy Thursday (April 1, 2010)**, folks will gather for a simple meal at 6:00 p.m. and then move to a candle lit sanctuary to commemorate Jesus' supper with his followers.

The day on which Jesus was crucified, today marked as **Good Friday (April 2, 2010)**, is one of somber reflection on his death and how it impacts our lives. At First & Central, one path of contemplation is on the Labyrinth that will be open and staffed between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Events

April 4, 2010 – Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast! Breakfast for the congregation – cooked primarily by the men of the church.

Mission and Outreach

Winter Sanctuary Hospitality Ministry

Every Saturday from November -- March from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Memorial Hall

One Great Hour of Sharing

The church wide Easter Sunday (April 4, 2010) offering supports the ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development.

Education Opportunities

Explorers Forum Schedule

- February 21: *Is There Life After Death?* presented by Alan Fox, PhD
- February 28: *Is There Life After Death?* continues
- March 7: *Writing Your Life* presented by Gene Thompson
- March 14: *Is There Life After Death?* concludes
- March 21: *Rodney Street Tennis & Tutoring* presented by Harry Shur
- March 28: *Quaker Spirituality, Learning and Practice* presented by Wilmington Friends School

Spirituality

Labyrinth Walks offered every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with weekly theme *The Lenten Journey*. The labyrinth will also be open on Good Friday (11 a.m. until 7 p.m.)

Women's Spirituality Group gathers on Monday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Join us in the Chapel for a time of Lenten reflection on Holy Week -- the events and experiences of each day - for Jesus, for the crowd, for the disciples, for us. Readings, prayers, silence, communion - all to prepare us to experience Holy Week more fully and more faithfully. Please let Jenny know if you'll be joining us --- and we hope you will!

Men's Spirituality Group gathers on Monday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Dale Dallabrida.

Music

Thursday Noontime Concerts

March 4: The Center City Chorale launches the spring season of concerts with "*Cantate Domino.*"

March 11: Bit o' Rhythm – Purveyors of Blues, Stomps & Rags turn back the clock with popular jazz of the past.

March 18: The Scott Davidson Quartet creates a tapestry of sound with instruments from around the world.

March 25: The Elysian Camerata makes its Noontime Concert debut with music of Johannes Brahms.