



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 14, 2021

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 107:1-3, 21-22

Carrie Mills

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands—

**From the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**
Let them thank the Lord for steadfast love,
for wonderful works to humankind.
**And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.**

HYMN OF PRAISE 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy; never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger; wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Steven Phillips

Holy, Self-giving God,
You knit us together in our mothers' wombs;
there is nothing about us that you do not know.
Still we need to come clean:
 to name our resistance,
 to own our stubborn ways.
Meet us now in the silence,
 in the stillness of our settled minds.
Birth us anew.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

HYMN OF GRACE 366 (vv. 1, 3 & 4) *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Hyfrydol

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Numbers 21:4-9

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:14-21

SERMON

Snake Stories

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Confession of 1967
Kay Steinman

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind.

Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.

But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women.

The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Steven Phillips

SONG OF FAITH

Multiplied

needtobreathe

Verse

*Your love is like radiant diamonds
Bursting inside us—we cannot contain;
Your love will surely come find us
Like blazing wild fires singing your name!*

Chorus

*God of mercy, sweet love of mine,
I have surrendered to your design.
May this offering stretch across the skies,
These hallelujahs be multiplied.*

BENEDICTION

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on Doxology
(Steven Phillips, organist)

Musical Participants in Today's Service

Ted Eastmoore, Mark DeRose, Carrie Mills, Steven Phillips, Kay Steinman

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SARASOTA HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY MARCH 28 - 10:00 am outside on the church lawn

A blend of musical styles by
NewSong Band & guest musicians
Sermon by Margaret Torrence
Activity bags for children & families
Bring a lawn chair & palm frond

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 1 - 7:00 pm in the sanctuary

A service of contemplation,
scripture, and music
with a safe & distanced communion
Meditation by Margaret Torrence

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 2 A brief contemplative service of music, readings, and prayers will be available for online viewing at your convenience

**EASTER
APRIL 4 - 10:00 am
in the sanctuary**
Traditional and contemporary music
with members of FPC Choir & Band,
Syreeta Banks, string orchestra,
and more
Pastoral leadership by
Margaret Torrence
Activity bags for children & families

**Masks, social distancing, and
registration (through website)
required for all in-person services.**

**All services may be viewed online:
www.FirstPresSarasota.org
(941) 955-8119**

Please let us know if you would like to attend in-person worship on **Easter, Sunday, April 4**. Currently, there is **one service scheduled at 10:00 a.m.** If anticipated demand exceeds our capacity for safe-distancing, ***we will consider adding a second service at 8:00 a.m.*** Please register by calling the church office (941) 955-8119 to let us know if members of your household would like to attend in-person worship on Easter Sunday morning. **Please respond by Monday, March 22** so that we can make adequate preparations.

Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas

Sunday, April 4, is Easter! If you would like to purchase lilies or hydrangeas for the Sunday, April 4, Easter worship service, please fill out this form and return it with your check (marked with 'Easter flowers' in the memo) to the church office, or in the Sunday offering. ***The order deadline is Friday, March 26.*** No orders can be accepted after this date.

PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY.

Name of Donor _____

Number of lilies @ \$10 each _____

Amount Paid _____ Ck # _____

Number of hydrangeas
(limited quantity) @ \$15 each _____

Amount Paid _____ Ck # _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

☐ I will pick up my flowers.

☐ I wish to donate my flowers
to homebound members.



**FIRSTPRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2050 Oak Street
Sarasota, FL 34237**