



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent

Gathering

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #23

“Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining
Shine, Jesus Shine”

***Call to Worship** (from Psalm 63)

Worship Leader

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

People: My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Leader: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

People: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

Leader: So I will bless you as long as I live;

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

A Time for Children

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

Gathering Prayer

Toni Knieling

Call to Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Prayer of Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have been quick to judge others and slow to make changes in our own lives. We confess that we have focused on others' shortcomings instead of reforming our own. Turn us, O Lord, from these ways that lead to perishing. Lead us, O Lord, in your ways that lead to abundant life.

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

Assurance of Pardon

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News! God comes to free us from the slavery of wrongful desires.

People: God is faithful and will not let us be tested beyond our strength.

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

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

*please stand

Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9

Toni Knieling

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Luke 13:1-9

Dr. Yvan Kelly

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

"Time to Grow"

Dr. Yvan Kelly

*Middle Hymn

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

***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: Receive these offerings we bring, O God, and use them for your holy purpose. Let them help take the message of Jesus to the world. Amen.

Sending

***Closing Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #697 v. 1, 2, 3 & 6

“Take My Life”

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 on 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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