

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

March 29, 2024

Good Friday

Wandering Heart

A Lenten Series



'Disarming Peter' by Lauren Wright Pittman
Digital painting.

Prelude

Improvisation: "Prone to Leave the God I Love"

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Stripping of the Chancel

***Invitation to Worship** (Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

Deacon Megan Woita

One: There are some truths that are like the sun, if you look at them too long they may burn you.

All: You may never see the same again. And yet, nothing can grow without the sun.

One: So we summon our courage and speak the truth of our lives.

All: We sing, prone to leave the God I love.

One: We let the honesty of those words crack our hearts in two. We admit to our fight-or-flight, boomerang nature, and before the grief even begins to pass, God is there.

All: God is turning toward us, closing the distance, inviting us to sing the next line of the song.

*Hymn #220

Go to Dark Gethsemane

*Call to Confession

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Prayer of Confession

Christ, at times we act as if we do not know you. At times we say of you, 'away with him!' When we think of those times in our lives, we weep and ask you to forgive us.

(A time of silent confession follows.)

One: O Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

All: Amen.

***Response to Confession #475 (verse 3) Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
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.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

We pour water into the baptismal font at this time as a sign of our renewal in baptism and in confession. It is a visual reminder of the Nicene Creed's affirmation, "I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins," and Romans 5:5 that promises, "God's love is being poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

Let us live in the full assurance of our faith, with our hearts cleansed of all evil and our bodies washed with living water. This is the good news of Good Friday: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. ***Thanks be to God.***

***Hymn #221**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson: John 18:1-11

Rev. Chris Peters

A Word: Disarming

Reflect: “How have we betrayed the peace Jesus left us in the name of violence?”

Hymn #215

What Wondrous Love Is This (verse 1)

Lesson: John 18:12-18

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

A Word: Firelight

Reflect: “How does the inaction of people of faith cause violence, suffering, or pain?”

Hymn #215

What Wondrous Love Is This (verse 2)

Lesson: John 18:19-27

Deacon Megan Woita

A Word: Crowing

Reflect: “When have you denied someone you loved, a value of faith, or your faith itself?”

Hymn #215

What Wondrous Love Is This (verse 3)

Lesson: John 19:1-16a

Rev. Chris Peters

A Word: Power

Reflect: “What are the consequences of valuing earthly visions of power over-and-above the power of Jesus?”

Hymn #215

What Wondrous Love Is This (verse 4)

Lesson: John 19:16b-30

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

A Word: Finished

Reflect: “How does the cross of Christ change you? What in this story calls you to a new way of being?”

Anthem

Agnus Dei

(from John Rutter Requiem for the Living)

Prayers of the People

Deacon Megan Woita

During the Prayer, you will be prompted to respond:

O Lord, do not be far away;

O God, come quickly to help us.

The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn #228

Were You There

(v. 1 soloist, v. 2 choir, vv. 3-5 congregation)

All depart in silence.

*Please rise in body or spirit for these parts of worship.

Today's liturgy, or words for worship, are adapted from "Wandering Heart Words for Worship: Good Friday" by A Sanctified Art LLC (sanctifiedart.org).

Good Friday Bulletin Art Artist Statement, "Disarming Peter" by Lauren Wright Pittman

"In disarming Peter, Christ disarms all Christians." —Tertullian (160-220 CE)

Pressed in by soldiers and religious leaders, surrounded by lanterns, torches, and weapons, Peter does what many of us would do. He responds to the threat of violence with violence. With sword in hand, he tries to take the unfolding narrative into his own hands and cuts off Malchus' ear. Jesus tells Peter to "put the sword back into its sheath" (John 18:11). This is the moment I wanted to capture in this image. In the image, this choice is suspended in time. Is Peter releasing the sword and choosing the way of peace? Or is Peter about to take up the sword and choose the way of violence? On the left in the image, leaves from the garden's olive grove reach out to shade and comfort him. This is the way of peace. On the right, the soldiers are looming with the flames closing in. This is the way of violence. Peter releases the sword as if it was on fire, as hot tears of shame, grief, and helplessness pour down his face. Which way will we choose?

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available. This is located off the entry foyer through the Sheridan Blvd./West-end sanctuary doors. When you enter the foyer, turn to your right, where the door will be open.

Giving to Westminster's Mission and Ministry

At Church: An offering to support Westminster may be placed in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located by the Sheridan Blvd. doors in the narthex and near the top of the stairs in the sanctuary on the Garden Room / South side. Look for the baskets and signs that read "Giving Basket." Ushers monitor the baskets and collect the offerings following the service.

For online giving, scan the QR code.

Ministers: The whole congregation

Pastors: Rev. Chris Peters & Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Interim Music Director: Mary Young **Organist:** John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Liturgist: Deacon Megan Woita **Greeters:** Kathy Phillip

Ushers: Diana Wild, Gwen Thorpe, Carol Shelbourn

