



# COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Lament

March 29, 2026



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*As we enter into worship together, we ask you to please silence your cell phones.*

## Reflection

*Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept.*

✠ *John 11:32–35*

## Introduction

### Prelude • *Draw Near (Psalm 69)*

*The flood around me is rising; the water's up to my neck.*

*My voice is worn out from crying. O Lord, please send me your help!*

*Draw near to my soul, O Lord! Draw near to my soul, O Lord!*

*My flesh and blood no more own me; my family's no more my home.*

*They hide their eyes from my grieving; they stop their ears from my groans.*

*I asked them all for some comfort; I begged, but there was no bread.*

*They gave me food that was poison; with wine, they left me for dead.*

### Cry of Lament • from Psalm 69

PASTOR: *Save me, O God!*

ALL: **For the waters have come up to my neck.  
I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold;  
I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.  
I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched.  
My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.**

**Invitation** • from Psalm 69 and Matthew 11

PASTOR: *The LORD hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners. As our Lord Jesus has said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

**Opening Prayer**

PASTOR: *Jesus, you call weary people to come to you.  
You bid the heavy laden to find rest in you.*

**ALL: Tonight, we come to you, weary and burdened by the weight of sorrow, confusion, and impatience with the evil that we see swirling around us.**

**We name the  
grief,  
pains,  
anxieties,  
disappointments,  
confusions,  
angers,  
fears  
that rage against us and within us.**

**Lord, we pour out our hearts before you now.  
Hear our cry, O God, listen to our prayers.**

SILENT PRAYER

PASTOR: *Let's continue to join our voices in prayer together.*

**ALL: Lord Jesus Christ, the one despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,  
we stand with you, our suffering savior.**

Hymn of Response • *Be Still My Soul*

#689



1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;\_\_\_\_\_
2. Be still, my soul: your God will un - der - take\_\_\_\_\_
3. Be still, my soul: when dear - est friends de - part,\_\_\_\_\_
4. Be still, my soul: the hour is has - t'ning on\_\_\_\_\_



bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain;\_\_\_\_\_ leave to your  
to guide the fu - ture as he has the past.\_\_\_\_\_ Your hope, your  
and all is dark - ened in the vale of tears,\_\_\_\_\_ then shall you  
when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord,\_\_\_\_\_ when dis - ap -



God to or - der and pro - vide;\_\_\_\_\_ in ev - 'ry change he  
con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;\_\_\_\_\_ all now mys - te - rious  
bet - ter know his love, his heart,\_\_\_\_\_ who comes to soothe your  
point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,\_\_\_\_\_ sor - row for - got, love's



faith - ful will re - main.\_\_\_\_\_ Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'n - ly  
shall be bright at last.\_\_\_\_\_ Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still  
sor - row and your fears.\_\_\_\_\_ Be still, my soul: your Je - sus can re -  
pur - est joys re - stored.\_\_\_\_\_ Be still, my soul: when change and tears are



Friend\_\_\_\_\_ through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.\_\_\_\_\_  
know\_\_\_\_\_ his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.\_\_\_\_\_  
pay\_\_\_\_\_ from his own full - ness all he takes a - way.\_\_\_\_\_  
past,\_\_\_\_\_ all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.\_\_\_\_\_

Katharina von Schlegel, 1752  
Tr. by Jane Borthwick, 1855; alt. 1990, mod.

FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.  
Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr.

## Scripture Reading • Psalm 13

READER: *How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I take counsel in my soul  
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?  
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?  
Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;  
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,  
lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"  
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.  
But I have trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the LORD,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.*

PASTOR: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm of Lament • *How Long Wilt Thou Forget Me?***

(sung to RUF version of “The Church’s One Foundation”)

ALL: *How long wilt thou forget me,  
O Lord, thou God of grace?  
How long shall fears beset me,  
while darkness hides thy face?  
How long shall griefs distress me  
and turn my day to night?  
How long shall foes oppress me  
and triumph in their might?*

*O Lord my God, behold me,  
and hear my earnest cries;  
lest sleep of death enfold me,  
enlighten thou mine eyes;  
lest now my foe insulting  
should boast of his success,  
and enemies exulting  
rejoice in my distress.*

*But I with expectation  
have on thy grace relied;  
my heart in thy salvation  
shall still with joy confide;  
and I with voice of singing  
will praise the Lord above,  
who, richest bounties bringing,  
has dealt with me in love.*

**Community Prayers of Lament • from Psalm 13:1-6**

PASTOR: *How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?*

ALL: **Lord, from where we stand,  
from what we have seen and heard and felt,  
we wonder if we are forgotten.  
Our world appears abandoned by you,  
from the public tragedies that grab headlines,  
to the private sufferings that grip our hearts.  
We watch as those whom you created to bear your image  
are marred, vandalized, brutalized,  
killed by hatred and war;  
We watch as families are torn apart,  
as sickness ravages our bodies,  
as we care for those who once cared for us,  
as death steals our loved ones before their time,  
for the grief of what was  
and the grief of what will never be  
we cry out to you in dismay — how long, O Lord?**

PASTOR: *How long must I take counsel in my soul,  
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?  
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?*

ALL: **We are perplexed by the state of the world,  
sorrow is with us in the light of day  
and in the dark of night.**  
**Our enemies stand over us with no sign of relenting.  
Both foreign and familiar enemies triumph over us.  
Those who trample peace in our world and our lives  
seem to increase day by day;  
yet, we know that there has been an enemy  
arrayed against humanity for ages,  
stirring up discord among every nation.**  
**We have felt this opposition, this pain, this injustice.  
And sometimes we have been perpetrators of it.  
How long must this go on?**

PASTOR: *Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;  
light up my eyes lest I sleep the sleep of death,  
lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"  
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.*

ALL: **O Lord, give light to our eyes,  
respond with your redemption.**

Hymn • O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#194 (vv.1,3-4)



- ▶ 1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
- ▶ 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on
- ▶ 3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
- ▶ 4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
- ▶ 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our



- ▶ Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
- ▶ Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law
- ▶ tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
- ▶ draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
- ▶ heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



- ▶ un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
- ▶ in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
- ▶ and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
- ▶ and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
- ▶ and close the path to mis - er - y.



man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Latin antiphons, 12th cent.  
Latin hymn, 1710  
Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961

VENI EMMANUEL L.M.ref  
.Plainsong, 13th cent.  
Arr. by Thomas Helmore, 1856

## Individual Prayers of Lament

### Prayer of Hope

PASTOR: *Yet, I have trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.*

ALL: **Left to the natural inclinations of our hearts,  
we would have looked within ourselves for hope,  
and would have found nothing.  
Our hope is not in ourselves, but only in You.**

PASTOR: *Lord, in your humility and love,  
you have invited us to expose our hearts to you  
by showing us your heart first.*

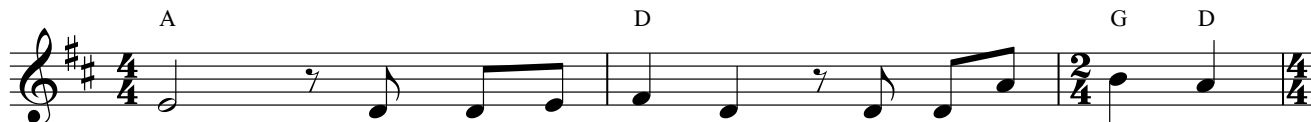
ALL: **In the life of Jesus Christ,  
you have bared your heart to the pain of this world.  
In the cross of Jesus Christ,  
you have born the afflictions of your people.  
In the resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
you have bestowed the real hope of life to your people.  
Darkness is not the destiny for us.**

Hymn • *Abide With Me*

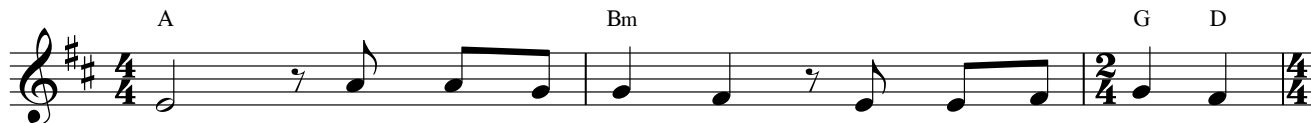
(vv.1-3,5)



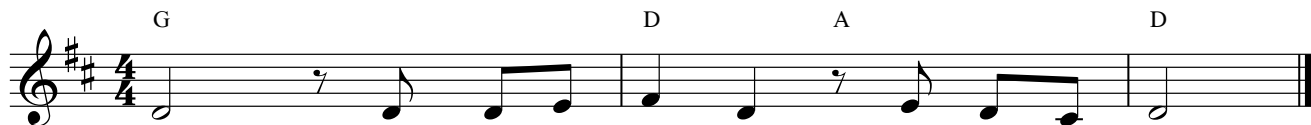
- ▶ 1. A - bide with me; \_\_\_\_\_ fast falls the e - ven -
- ▶ 2. Thou on my head, in ear - ly youth didst
- ▶ 3. I need Thy pres - ence, ev - 'ry pass - ing
- ▶ 4. I fear no foe, \_\_\_\_\_ with Thee at hand to
- ▶ 5. Hold Thou Thy cross, \_\_\_\_\_ be - fore my clos - ing



- ▶ tide; The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a -
- ▶ smile; And, though re - bel - lious, and per - verse mean -
- ▶ hour. What but Thy grace, can foil the tempt - er's
- ▶ bless; Ills have no weight, \_\_\_\_\_ tears lose their bit - ter -
- ▶ eyes; Shine through the gloom, and point me to the



- ▶ bide. When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts
- ▶ while, Thou hast not left me, oft as I left
- ▶ pow'r? Who, like Thy - self, my guide and stay can
- ▶ ness. Where is thy sting, death? Where grave thy vic - to -
- ▶ skies. Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows



- ▶ flee, Help of the help - less, a - bide with me.
- ▶ Thee, On to the close Lord, a - bide with me.
- ▶ be? Through cloud and sun - shine, a - bide with me.
- ▶ ry? I tri - umph still, \_\_\_\_\_ a - bide with me.
- ▶ flee; In life, in death, Lord, a - bide with me.

**Meditation**

Rev. Noah Wiersema

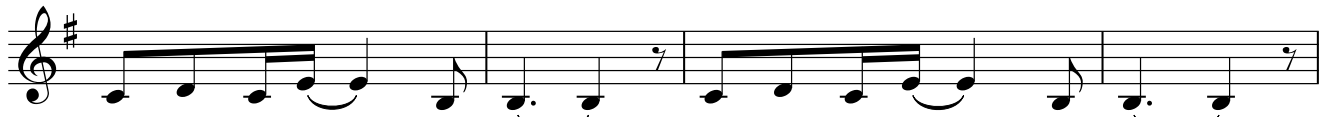
# Hymn • *All Things New*



1. Come, Lord, and tar - ry not;— Bring the long - looked - for day;—  
2. Come, for cre - a - tion groans, Im - pa - tient of— Thy stay,—



O why these years of wait - ing here, These a - ges\_ of de - lay?  
Worn out with these long years of ill, These a - ges\_ of de - lay.



Come, for Thy saints still wait;— Dai - ly a - scends their sigh:—  
Come, for love wax - es cold,— Its steps are faint\_ and slow;—



The Spir - it and\_ the Bride say, "Come": Does Thou not\_ hear the cry?  
Faith now is lost\_ in un - be - lief, Hope's lamp burns\_ dim and low.



O come and make all things new Come and make all things



new O come and make all things new Build up this ru - ined



Earth, Come and make all things new

## Benediction

### Postlude • *Drive Out The Darkness*

REFRAIN: *Come O come be our light  
Drive out the darkness  
Come Jesus come*

*Ev'ry year under the thorn  
Ev'ry wrong that we have known  
Ev'ry valley will be raised  
The ancient ruins will be remade* (REFRAIN)

*Ev'ry weapon made for war  
Ev'ry gun and ev'ry sword  
Will be melted in the flame  
To be used for gardening* (REFRAIN)

*In the emptiness of grief  
Through the night of suffering  
Ev'ry loss and in the tears  
God our comfort O be near* (REFRAIN)

*Come O come be our light  
Drive out the darkness  
Come and end all the violence  
Come and do not be silent  
Come we cling to Your promise  
Come You'll break all injustice  
Come Jesus come*

Thank you for attending our Service of Lament. A service like this can bring to the surface very heavy and difficult things. If you would like someone to talk to or pray with, we have individuals who are available after this service in the commons (to the left as you exit the sanctuary). You can also email [pastor@cpcstl.org](mailto:pastor@cpcstl.org) to set something up for a later date.

### Holy Week Schedule

Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:00pm

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday Service @ 6:00pm

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday Services

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service  
7:30 a.m. Coffee & Doughnuts  
8:30 a.m. Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. Easter Reception  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
NO Evening Service

Musicians – Will Nabholz, Guitar & Vocals; Bekah Marsh, Piano & Vocals

Unless noted otherwise, all Scripture notations are from The ESV Bible [The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, © 2001 Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.] and all hymns are from the *Trinity Hymnal*.

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We would love to know you are here and answer any questions you may have.



By the grace of the Triune God, Covenant Presbyterian Church exists  
to form and send disciples with passion for God and compassion for people.

**Statement of Faith**

We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), which believes that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God and holds to that system of doctrine summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith & Catechisms.

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