

Cary Presbyterian Church



Seventy-Seven Times by Lauren Wright Pittman

WORSHIP SERVICE

MARCH 17, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

614 Griffis Street, Cary, NC 27511

(919) 467-8700

www.carypresbyterian.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP – 10:30 A.M.

Gathering

(* Please stand as you are able.)

Gathering Chime

Prelude

Adagio in E Minor

Francoeur

Welcome and Announcements

***Introit**

All Things are Possible
Youth Choir

Galina

*Call to Worship

O mortal, can these bones live?

Only the Lord God knows.

O people, hope in the Lord.

**With the Lord there is steadfast love
and great power to redeem.**

***Hymn**

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

No. 833

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

We long to be lifelong learners.

We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.

Instead, we often live as if we know best.

We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher."

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.

Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.

Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our

learning is done and that we have

all the answers.

Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask,
 “How many times should we forgive?”— make us brave.
 Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity
 carry our faith into deeper waters.
 With hope and humility we pray, amen.

Silent Confession

Kyrie *Lord Have Mercy Upon Us* Arr. Johnson

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

CCLI# 3015474

Assurance of Pardon

Response *Let Us Return to the Lord*

Come, let us re - turn to the Lord.
 You who are torn, God will heal you; you who are
 crushed, God will bind you up.

Word

Prayer for Illumination

David Bohm

Scripture Reading Matthew 18:15-22

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading Psalm 119:9-16

The Message *Wandering Heart: Teach Me*

Paul Lang

***Hymn** *I Long for Your Commandments*

No. 64

***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Time With Our Children

Jennifer Pierce

Responding

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Traditional
Carolyn Clark, Jane Dunbar, and Julie Henry

*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 Thy redeeming love.*

*Lenten Doxology

Praise God through - out these for - ty days. Praise

Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spir - it who im -

parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A - men.

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Lord in your goodness: Hear our praise; Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.



THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Wandering Heart: "Teach me"



Seventy-seven Times

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Matthew 18:15-22

Digital painting

When I'm creating a mandala inspired by a text, I'm able to zoom out and see the bigger picture, and the image itself ends up looking like a bird's eye view, which I think is a helpful perspective sometimes. In this mandala, I wanted to follow a person through the process of reproof, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration as Jesus describes in Matthew 18. In the center, a person is standing alone, isolated, with their arms crossed in a closed-off posture. If you're sinned against, Jesus says to go and "point out the fault when the two

of you are alone" (Matthew 18:15). When you move to the second ring of the mandala, there are pairs of people shaking hands, finding common ground, or at least attempting to. If this doesn't work, then you are to bring more people (one or two more) together to provide counsel and witness. In the third ring of the mandala, two people are engaging with the closed-off person, sharing a way forward. In the next ring hyacinth flowers—which represent sorrow, regret, and forgiveness—stretch, bloom, and grow, bringing beauty into the now open arms of the people in the last ring of the mandala, who are embraced and woven into the community. The person from the center goes from being alone and closed-off to embraced and open.

When I was drawing the figures from the center out, it began to look like a dance. Is this the picture that grace paints? Forgiveness cannot happen in isolation and certainly neither can reconciliation nor restoration. The movement toward wholeness is the movement toward one another.

Perhaps craving more tangibility and practicality, Peter asks how many times he should forgive someone who has wronged him, and Jesus says, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times" (Matthew 18:22). This piece contains seventy-seven people and flowers to represent the abundance of grace that Jesus calls us into. The gold represents the divine presence of empathy, compassion, grace, and love throughout this dance from isolation toward community, from brokenness toward wholeness, and from guilt and shame toward freedom.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

THIS WEEK AT CARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Website and Online Member Directory: www.carypresbyterian.org

Sunday, March 17	9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Faith Formation: Pre-K -Grade 5 (C. Ed. Wing) Parlor Class (Parlor) Pastor's Class (Fellowship Hall Annex) Oak City Cares (Kitchen) Worship In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online Christian Adventurers (Youth Room)
Monday, March 18	11:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting (Parlor) Girl Scout Troop 1951 (Youth Area) Girl Scout Troop 271 (Youth Area) Scout BSA Troop 232G (Fellowship Hall) Personnel Team (Zoom) Cub Scout Pack 232 Den Mtgs. (C. Ed. Building)
Tuesday, March 19	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Triple F Group (100) Scout Court of Honor (Fellowship Hall) Budget & Finance Team (Zoom) Scout Troop 232B (Youth Area) Adult Virtual Class (Zoom)
Wednesday, March 20	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Knitting Group (Parlor) Fitness Fun Power Hour (Fellowship Hall) Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, March 21	9:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Generosity Team (100) Music Group (100) Stephen Ministry (100/102/106)
Friday, March 22	7:00 p.m.	Courage, Strength, & Hope (Library)
Saturday, March 23		
Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday	9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Faith Formation: Pre-K -Grade 5 (C. Ed. Wing) Parlor Class (Parlor) Pastor's Class (Fellowship Hall Annex) Worship In-Person (Sanctuary) and Online Next Chapter Group (100) <i>No Youth Choir or Christian Adventurer Activity</i>