

## Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

### Invitation to the Offering

Offering what we have for the sake of others is a discipline of pruning—letting go of our possessions, our time, and even ourselves—to extend the gospel witness into the world. Be generous in your ministry of giving. You need not fear; you abide in the vine.

### The Offering of God's People

\* **Offertory Response**                      "Doxology"                      No. 606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.*

\* **Offertory Prayer**

Through our offerings, O God, give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort. Make our many gifts one offering for the world; in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

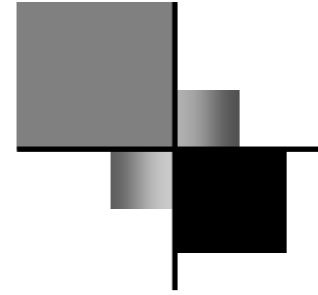
\* **Closing Hymn**                      "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me "                      No. 703

\* **Charge and Blessing**

Go out with joy that you have been fed and healed, securely abiding as branches of the true vine.

Go and tell the story of faith that is given to you by the One who never lets you go. Seek out those who abound with sacred questions, and be ready to answer a mystery with love.

As Jesus entered into human life, his life is still alive in you. The blessing of Almighty God be upon you today and always.



# Highlawn

Presbyterian Church

MARCH 31, 2019  
4TH SUNDAY IN LENT



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A People of *Loving Hearts* and *Helping Hands*

## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude** Reflections on "Were You There?" *arr. Victor Labenske*

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Loving God, thank you for calling us your own.

**All: We are your children, Lord, and we belong to you!**

Leader: Faithful God, thank you for loving us just as we are.

**All: We are your children, Lord, and we belong to you!**

Leader: God of every generation, thank you for inviting us into your family.

**All: We are your children, Lord, and we belong to you! Amen!**

**\*Hymn** "Be Thou My Vision " No.450

### Call to Confession

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another our failure to love our neighbor.

### Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

### Passing of the Peace

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. To this peace we were called as members of a single body in Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Children's Message

**Anthem** "Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord " Benjamin Harlan

### Prayer of Illumination

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. **Amen.**

**Scripture** Psalm 22:25-31  
John 15:1-11

**Sermon** Growing in Faith: Rev. Chris Bailey  
Student Stories from Marshall UKIRK  
*John Ross, Starr Butcher, Lauren Panell*

### Call to Affirmation

Trusting in God's saving Grace, may we stand and affirm our faith together using the words as they are printed in our bulletin.

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *from The Iona Community*

**With the whole church we affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit;**

**With people everywhere we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong;**

**With all creation we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life, the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and in the world. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song" No. 285