#### **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

#### THE WESTMINSTER CHIMES

INTROIT

The Sanctuary Choir

Turn Back O Man

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Turn back O Man, forswear they foolish ways. Old now is Earth, and none may count her days. Yet thou, her child, whose head is crowned with flame, still will not hear thine inner God proclaim "Turn back O Man, forswear thy foolish ways!"

## \*CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Book of Common Worship

O Lord our God,

you call us to proclaim the gospel,

but we remain silent in the presence of evil.

You call us to be reconciled to you and one another,

but we are content to live in separation.

You call us to seek the good of all,

but we fail to resist the powers of oppression.

You call us to fight pretensions and injustice,

but we sit idly by,

endangering the lives of people far and near.

Forgive us, O Lord.

Reconcile us to you by the power of your spirit,

and give us the courage and strength

to be reconciled to others:

through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

(Let us silently offer confessions that are individually ours to make.)

#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE 543

GREEN TYLER

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (stanzas 1-5)

God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice; God, be the strength to now up-hold me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the Name of Holy, great cloud of witnesses enfold; prophets, apostles, angels witness: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight, flashing of lightning, strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of planet: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way, and from beneath, above, and all ways: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me; O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL HUNGER MISSION OFFERING

Cate Burtis

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

The Rev. Donna Hopkins Britt

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 3:5-12

(p. 848 in the pew Bible)

The grass withers and the flowers fade but the word of the Lord stands forever. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S TIME** 

Children's Worship follows immediately after the children's sermon. Children ages 4 through 1st Grade may leave for Children's Worship, an age-appropriate service.

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Matthew 23:1-12

(p. 901 in the pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**SERMON** 

The Rev. Isabella Fagiani

Public Image

# **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Sacrifice of Fools by Eugene Peterson Jesus entered our history to exhibit the reality of God, the power of creation, the miracle of forgiveness, the drama of mercy, the thrilling pulsations of wisdom lived out in daily discipleship. Many people heard him gladly, thronged around him eagerly and attentively. But there were others who were bored and distant. They were called the Pharisees. Their only interest in Jesus was that of window-shopperscasual, strolling, well dressed, with no pressing needs but not indifferent to a bargain if they should happen upon one. The verbal part of their religion was faultless, but the bodily part was worthless. They talked a lot; they taught a lot; they pontificated a lot. But they did not live the majesties. They did not experience the realities. They did not share the mercy. They did not move under the omnipotence. People are always taking the gospel and trying to turn it into a religion. And God keeps calling us back, back into the wide-open country of gospel. The Word strips us of religion so we might be dressed for God.

# \*HYMN OF RESPONSE 697

**HENDON** 

Take My Life

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

# **CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

Gifts for the offering can be made by placing your offering in the plate as it is passed or by scanning the QR Code in your bulletin with your smartphone. Visit rcpres.org and click "Give Now" to learn more.

## **OFFERTORY** O Sacred Head. Now Wounded

The Sanctuary Choir PASSION CHORALE

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down; now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown; O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine! Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain: mine, mine was transgression, but thine the deadly pain, Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place; look on me with thy favor, and grant to me thy grace. What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend, for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end? O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

# FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

# \*CLOSING HYMN 187

**BRADBURY** 

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

#### \*CHARGE & BLESSING

#### \*CHORAL RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

John Rutter

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, to shine upon you and be gracious, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Children's Worship: Vickie Havnie

# **MINISTRY MESSAGES**

donation page.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Roena Barbre, Dawn Blakeman, Lisa Boylan, Donn Branch, Brendan Brown (Kathy and Les Brown's grandson), Billy Grove, Susan Lindstrom, Joe McCrobie, Betsy Neathawk, Nancy Smith (Alan Smith's mother), Roger Tims, and all caregivers.

The rose in the Chancel today is to honor the birth of Carson Thomas Kessler, son of Lizzie and Eric Kessler, born March 18. Lena Jov and Nora are so excited to be big sisters! Also celebrating are Susan and Reif Kessler. grandparents.

ONLINE GIVING For those who may not remember to bring a . check or cash on a Sunday, you can set up your giving to RCPC online. This can be done as a one-time or an on-going way to support our mission and ministry. You can either visit www.rcpres.org and press the "Give Now" button on the

commands, "You give them something to eat." Matthew 14:16



TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL OFFERING TODAY We invite you to contribute a few cents for each meal to help alleviate hunger and poverty in the world. Jesus

homepage or scan the QR code with your smartphone to go directly to the

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS Fellowship Dinners continue this winter and spring each Wednesday at 6:15 PM. Meals are a suggested donation of \$7 for an individual 12 years and up, \$5 for children ages 4-11, and free for 3 and younger, with a max of \$20 for a family. Please register by noon the Tuesday before each meal online at rcpres.org/dinner. Menu for 3/29: BBQ Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes, Side of Veggies, Mushroom Entree for Vegans and Lemon Cake for Dessert

THE PHARISEE IN ME SERMON SERIES Jesus was not crucified because evil people plotted his death. Jesus died because he wasn't good enough for the religious people. How often do we sit in the seat of those who are convinced that they are correct and righteous? Would we want Jesus crucified too? This Lent we will examine how we try and live by the "correct" standards and how our obsession with being "good" might actually lead to the most evil results.

March 26 "Public Image" Matthew 23:1-12 April 2 "Save Us Our Way" Matthew 21:1-11 "The Good Redeemed" April 9 Matthew 28:1-10

EASTER FLOWERS If you would like to dedicate Easter Flowers in honor or memory of someone special, please complete envelope in the pew rack with name(s) for dedication along with a check, note "Easter Flowers" in the memo. Place the envelope in the offering plate. Deadline to order is March 29. A list will be included in the bulletin on Easter Day, April 9. Cost per dedication is \$13. You can also complete the form online at tinyurl.com/2023RCPCFlowers or by scanning the QR code.

KROGER REWARDS RCPC received \$834.10 from Kroger rewards from the last guarter of 2022 to be used for the Communion Fund, Thank you for subscribing to the Kroger rewards. If you are interested in connecting your Kroger Rewards to RCPC the organization number is UC774. Just go to Kroger Rewards and connect your rewards to RCPC.

**ALMSGIVING** This Lenten season we will again be engaging in the spiritual practice of Almsgiving - giving intentionally of what we have to others. The hope is that items are brought in weekly so each week we are reminding ourselves to be considerate of others as we do our shopping and go about our lives. For the first three Sundays of Lent we will be providing items to support the Presbyterian Community Center's food pantry and for the last three Sundays of Lent we will be supporting the food pantry as well as providing leggings for girls at Woodrow Wilson Middle School. When bringing in a canned item, a pull top lid is preferable.

For Woodrow Wilson Middle School:

March 26 - Boxed Mac and Cheese, Noodles/Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce April 2 - Leggings, Size Girls 10 through Adult 10

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS: April 16- May 21**

- The Seekers: Do I Stay Christian by Brian McLaren (Book Study)
  Do I Stay Christian? addresses in public the powerful question that surprising numbers of people—including pastors, priests, and other religious leaders—are asking in private. Picking up where Faith After Doubt leaves off, Do I Stay Christian? is not McLaren's attempt to persuade Christians to dig in their heels or run for the exit. Instead, he combines his own experience with that of thousands of people who have confided in him over the years to help listeners make a responsible, honest, ethical decision about their religious identity. Room 201
- Hate Mail: Paul's fiery letter to the Galatians Led by Mike Lockaby, Room 101

Paul's letter to the Galatians is short -- only 149 verses -- but Paul packs in a lot of thinking and not a little vitriol. As one of his first two letters (scholars argue whether it is first or second), Paul writes a letter to the Galatians, clearly still hot under the collar from an explosive encounter with Cephas, the Apostle Peter. Who do you think won when they faced each other? Who won the argument from our vantage point 2,000 years later? Who do you think should have won? As we pass through the Season of Easter, the time of celebration of the Good News, what is Paul's vision of it? Led by Mike Lockaby, Room 101

Humble Roots Led by Hannah Anderson, Room 102
 Feeling anxious and worn thin? Can't seem to find the peace you long for?
 Join author Hannah Anderson for a 6 -week study based on her book, Humble Roots: How Humility Grounds and Nourishes Your Soul. Anchored in the teachings of Jesus, the class will also explore how different natural world phenomena invite us to come low and find rest in our Creator.

#### THIS WEEK AT RCPC

Sunday, March 26

Congregational Retreat

9:00 AM Worship – Chapel 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary

Monday, March 27

9:00 AM Preschool

10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group

10:30 AM Small Group: "The Pastor's Porch" – Whaley

6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM BSA Troop 2 7:00 PM Session

Tuesday, March 28

9:00 AM Preschool

10:30 AM Primary Purpose: AA

4:00 PM Small Group: "The Parking Lot Fools" – Dixon

5:30 PM Tai Chi

7:00 PM Hospitality Committee 7:15 PM Raleigh Court Ringers

8:00 PM Small Group: "Soul Sisters" - Biddle

Wednesday, March 29

9:00 AM Preschool 4:00 PM God Alive

6:15 PM Fellowship Dinner

7:00 PM Small Group: "The After Dinner Crowd" – Sackett

7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 30

9:00 AM Preschool

9:00 AM Hunger Mission Packing

10:00 AM Centering Prayer (St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church)

10:30 AM Primary Purpose: AA

4:30 PM Tai Chi

6:30 PM Hip Sober Chicks

Friday, March 31

11:45 AM Al-Anon

## Saturday, April 1

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday

9:00 AM Worship – Chapel 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary

12:00 PM Congregational Luncheon and Easter Egg Hunt



Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church



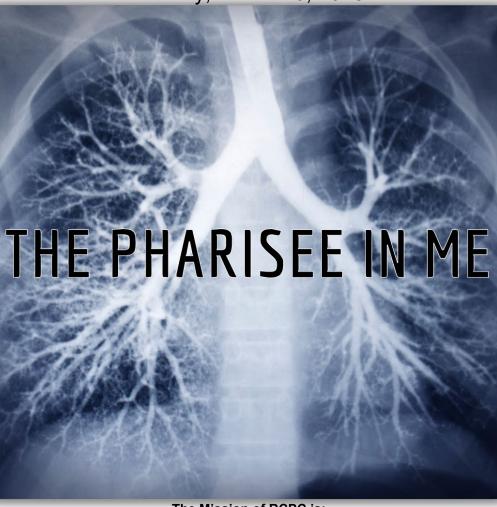
Sunday, April 2, 2023

Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall after 11:00 AM Worship Egg Hunt at 1:00 PM on the Grounds of the Church\* Bring your Easter Basket!



# Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church Roanoke, Virginia

The Church of the Open Door 11:00 AM - Sanctuary Sunday, March 26, 2023



The Mission of RCPC is:
To Seek Christ
To Serve Christ
To Show Christ
To Know God through Christ

Ministers
Pastor and Head of Staff
Associate Pastor
Director of Christian Education
Minister of Care The Rev. I
Interim Sanctuary Choir Director
Interim Organist/Accompanist
Preschool Director

All the People of Raleigh Court
The Rev. Andrew C. Whaley
The Rev. Isabella Fagiani
cation Leigh Sackett
The Rev. David Dixon, MD, Episcopal Deacon
Director William G. Snyder
anist Judith C. Snyder
Betsy Prillaman

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