
Marple Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

Fifth



SUNDAY

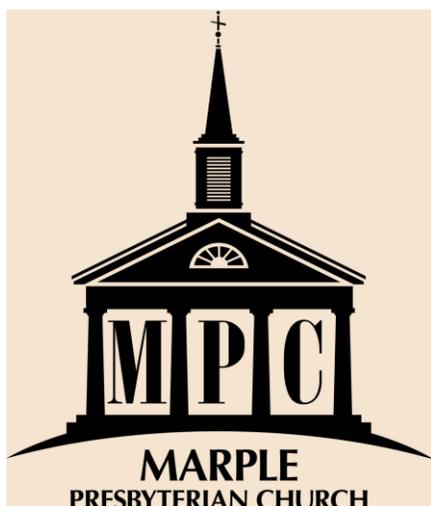
IN LENT

“We love because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
105 N. SPROUL ROAD | BROOMALL, PA 19008
610-356-1098 | marplepc@gmail.com | www.marplepres.org

Welcome

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026



Today – Fifth Sunday in Lent

LITURGIST: Terry Canny

HEAD USHER: Tom Trumbetas



FIFTH SUNDAY
In Lent

New Here?

Welcome to Marple Presbyterian Church! We're so glad you came to worship with us and want to do all we can to help you feel at home.

- All visitors are encouraged to take the information brochure in the pew and place the visitor's section in the offering plate.
- Children are welcome in the service! Children's bulletins are available from the ushers.
- Nursery care is also available for children thru age 3. The nursery is located directly underneath the sanctuary.
- Assistive Listening Units are also available – please see any usher.

RESOURCES

Contact Us | 610-356-1098

marplepc@gmail.com

Website | www.marplepres.org

facebook.com/MarplePresbyterian

HOW DO I CONNECT?

Clerk of Session | *Kristen Mitchell*

Christian Education | *Ben Mitchell*

Deacons | *Linda Pursley & Joyce Holmwood*
marplepresdeacons@gmail.com

Fellowship | *Debbie Pettinelli*

Finance | *Kerri Robinson*

Membership Development |

Mission | *Session Members*

Music | *Susan Greene*

Nursery | *Amy Eckels*

Personnel | *Ben Mitchell*

Property Management | *Paul Avazier*

Rentals | *Church Office*

Stewardship |

Treasurer | *Bill Brower*

marlepctreasurer@gmail.com

Worship | *Amy Eckels*

Youth Group | *Ben Mitchell*

For more contact info, please contact the church office.

*Despite our earnest efforts, we couldn't climb all the way up to God.
So what does God do? In an amazing act of condescension,
on Good Friday, God climbs down to us, becomes one with us.
The story of divine condescension begins on Christmas
and ends on Good Friday. We thought, if there is to be business
between us and God, we must somehow get up to God.
Then God came down to the level of the cross,
all the way down to the depths of hell.
God still stoops, into your life and mine.*

William H. Willimon, *Thank God It's Friday*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship | Isaiah 53:1,4-5

Leader: Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

People: Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we account him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted.

Leader: But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole.

People: And by his bruises we are healed.

Leader: Come let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn | *Ah, Holy Jesus* | #93

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

People: Lord Jesus, you bore our sins in your own body on the cross that we might live in righteousness. Have mercy on us and grant us a holy and peaceful life now and in the world to come, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, forever. Amen.

Leader: O God of the Eternal Now, through Christ's death and resurrection, you have cancelled the debt of our sins and opened the door to new life for us. In you, dead ends can become new beginnings; the cross is transformed from a means of torture into the very means of our salvation. And so this moment is filled with fresh possibilities through your renewing presence. We praise you for your abiding love.

People: We confess that we have a hard time believing this good news, much less living it out. Past mistakes and failures, regrets and grievances, often haunt us. We carry our sins, and the sins others have laid upon us, like heavy burdens which sap our energy and enthusiasm. We hear old voices repeating their condemnations: "What you have been, you will always be..." "You can't change, so why try?..."

Lord, help us accept the gift of new life you offer us in Jesus Christ. Forgive us for listening to voices that condemn us rather than your voice of liberating love. Refresh us with springs of living water, so that our parched lives may blossom in your renewing presence. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Hear the good news!
These are words you may trust, words that merit full acceptance:
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

People: He personally bore our sins in his body on the cross,
that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

Leader: I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: As God's own people, let us be merciful in action,
kindly in heart, humble in mind,
and always ready to forgive
as freely as God has forgiven us.
And, above everything else, let us be loving,
and never forget to be thankful
for what Christ has done for us. Amen.

The Peace

CALVARY'S MOUNTAIN: A Cantata for Passiontide

First Reading: John 18:1-11

read by George Guyer

Hymn: *What Wondrous Love is This*

American Folk Hymn/arr. Leavitt

Verse 1—Congregation and Choir

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul*

Verse 2—Choir

Verse 3—Congregation and Choir

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great "I AM,"
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.*

Second Reading: John 18:12-27

read by Kristen Mitchell

Anthem: *Surely He Has Borne our Griefs*

Isaiah 53:4-6/Leavitt

Third Reading: John 18:28-19:16a

read by Douglas Ballard

Hymn: *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

Watts/Wilson/arr. Leavitt

Verse 1—Congregation and Choir

*Alas! And did my Savior bleed and did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?*

Verse 2—Choir

Verse 3—Congregation and Choir

*But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do.*

Fourth Reading: John 19:16b-30

read by Linda Pursley

Anthem: *Jesus Died on Calvary's Mountain*

American Folk Hymn/arr. Leavitt

Fifth Reading: John 19:31-42

read by Matthew Knecht

Hymn: *Were You There*

American Spiritual/arr. Leavitt

Verse 1—Congregation and Choir

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Where you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

Verse 2—Choir

Verse 3—Congregation and Choir

*Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Where you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***Affirmation of Faith | Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Congregational Response **Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology) | #592*

*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.*

* Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

God of compassion,
we praise you that you look upon our frail lives
with love and understanding
and that you desire for us all new life in Jesus Christ.
We are overwhelmed by your love,
which goes to the cross for us, endures the grave,
and leads us to new life.
By your Spirit, strengthen our souls to be brave and
bold in Christ's service.
Take these offerings,
and all the ways we seek to serve you,
and use them and us for your purposes,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord.
Amen.

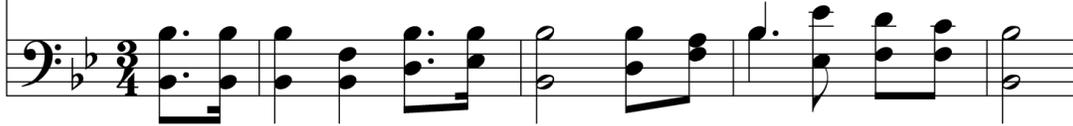
WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

*Closing Hymn | *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de-mands.
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side which flowed
Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



Though scholars discredit the story that this hymn was written when the author found shelter under a large rock during a thunderstorm, the popular appeal of that conjecture perhaps lies in the energy of this plea and the vividness of its imagery drawn from many biblical sources.

TEXT: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776, alt.
MUSIC: Thomas Hastings, 1830, alt.

TOPLADY
7.7.7.7.7.7

FORGIVENESS



be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.
all for sin could not a - tone. Thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.



*Please stand as you are able

Benediction

Postlude



CANTATA APPRECIATION

Thank you for worshiping with us – we hope you enjoy *Calvary's Mountain: A Cantata for Passiontide*. This service would not have been possible without contributions by the following people:

CANTATA PARTICIPANTS:

Amber Allen

Douglas Ballard

George Guyer

Patti Gwartz

Matt Knecht

Kristen Mitchell

Linda Pursley

Bernie Strain

Sylvia Chen, Flute

Kristin Nelson, Clarinet

John Strain, Percussion

Thank you to everyone for your patience, hard work, and dedication!

~Susan Greene

This Week

MONDAY

Cub Scout Troop 151 Meeting | *Hall* 7-9 pm

TUESDAY

Thrift Shop 10 am–3 pm

Joys & Concerns Chat | *Zoom* 3-4 pm

zoom.us/j/6103561098 PW MPC

WEDNESDAY

Joys & Concerns Chat | *Zoom* 3-4 pm

zoom.us/j/6103561098 PW MPC

Boy Scout Troop 151 Meeting | *Hall* 7-9 pm

AA Meeting | *Lower CE Bldg.* 7-8 pm

THURSDAY

Joys & Concerns Chat | *Zoom* 3-4 pm

zoom.us/j/6103561098 PW MPC

Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm

SATURDAY

MPC Clean Up 9 am – 12 pm

Thrift Shop 10 am-4 pm

SUNDAY

AA Meeting | *Lower CE Bldg.* 8-9 am

Looking Ahead

MARCH 29

Palm Sunday 10:30 am

APRIL 1

Deacon's Meeting via Zoom 7:30 pm

APRIL 2

Maundy Thursday Worship in Chapel 7 pm

APRIL 3

Good Friday Interfaith Service 12 pm

APRIL 5

Easter Sunday 10:30 am

Learn More



Sunday School - MPC Sunday School is open to children ages 3 and up and runs weekly during the 10:30 am Sunday Worship Service.



Youth Group is open to all youth from 6th to 12th grade and meets twice a month between October and May. Please see the full Youth Group calendar for meeting dates, special events, and retreats. Contact the Youth Group Leaders at youthgroup@marplepres.org for additional information.



Easter Flowers Order Form

Please fill out this form and return to the church office with your payment no later than Sunday, March 29th if you would like to place a flower in the sanctuary for Easter.

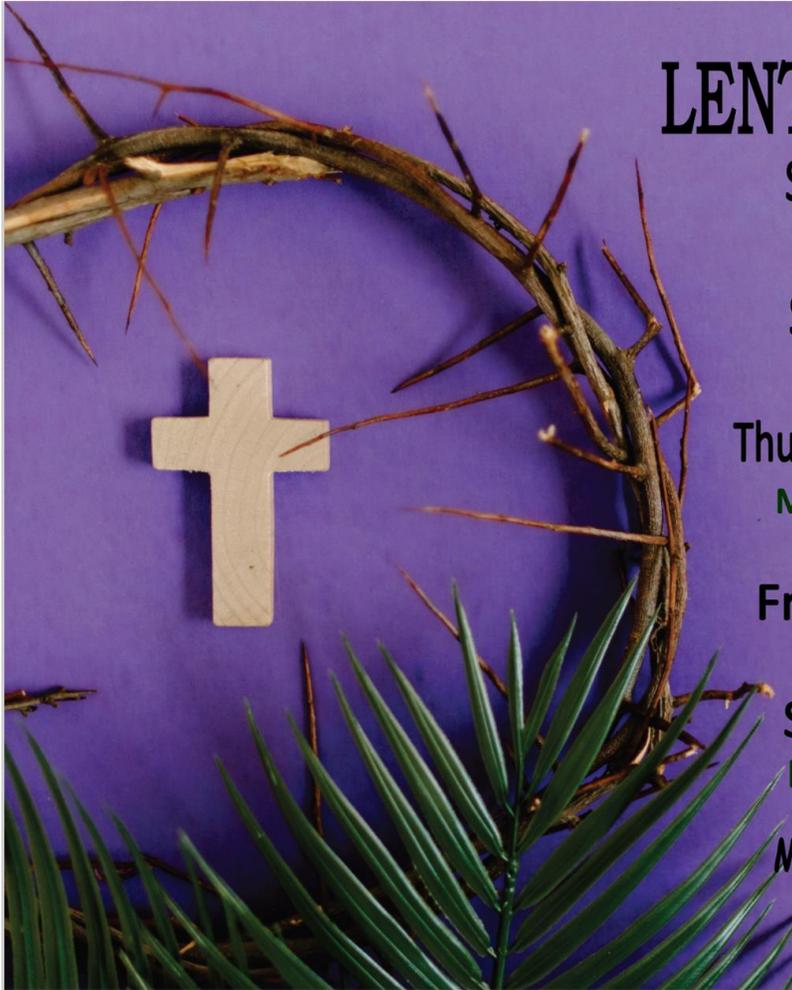
Given by: _____ Envelope No. _____

In honor memory of: _____

Please make checks payable to
Marple Presbyterian Church.

Paid via Cash
 Check # _____

Quantity	_____
\$9/each	_____
TOTAL	_____



LENTEN SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 22 - 10:30 am
Calvary's Mountain (Cantata)

Sunday, March 29 - 10:30 am
Palm Sunday Worship Service

Thursday, April 2 - 7:00 pm, Chapel
Maundy Thursday Worship Service
Communion

Friday, April 3 - 12:00 pm
Good Friday Interfaith Service

Sunday, April 5 - 10:30 am
Easter Sunday Worship Service

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EASTER EGG HUNT– Please join us after worship on Easter Sunday for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We will be holding an Egg Hunt for children in the Courtyard immediately after worship on April 5th. There will be candy, games, and lots of fun for everyone. We hope to see you there!

We appreciate donations of individual miniature non-peanut Easter candy as well as small non-candy items. Donations may be placed in the basket in the narthex or dropped off at the church office through **Palm Sunday, March 29**. Feel free to chat with Debbie Pettinelli for more information.



Happy EASTER!

Join us for a morning of worship.

EASTER WORSHIP

10:30 a.m. ~ Sunday, April 5th

Children will be dismissed to Sunday School during the service after the Children's Moment.

Following the lesson time, there will be a special visit from the **EASTER BUNNY** to lead them outside for an **EGG HUNT**.

** Nursery care available **

** Refreshments to follow service **

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(610) 356-1098

www.marplepres.org





Our Thrift Shop is open:

Tuesdays from 10 am – 3 pm

Saturdays from 10 am – 4 pm

Please come by to shop the new arrivals.

We are thankful for Amy and her team of faithful volunteers. We are always grateful for any help. It is a great way to volunteer at MPC.

During this time of pastoral transition please be aware that the Deacons will be available for addressing and communicating any pastoral needs.

You can email or text/call:

Joyce Holmwood

jholmwood433@comcast.net

610-888-7458

OR

Linda Pursley

lpursley1981@gmail.com

631-942-5758

or any Deacon listed in the bulletin.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Listening devices are available for individuals who have a hearing impairment.

Please speak to an usher for more information or to request a device.



SESSION

DEACONS

Paul Avazier '26

Faye Allison '28

Amy Eckels '28

Marion Brower '27

Patricia Gwartz '28

Bette Downs '27

Ben Mitchell '27

George Guyer '28

Kristen Mitchell, Clerk

Greg Hoffman '27

Debbie Pettinelli '27

Joyce Holmwood '26

Kerri Robinson '26

Linda Pursley '27

Lynn Smith '28

Carol Robinson '28

John Strain '27

Diane Valaitis '26

Kim Wertz '28

Shirley Wise '26
