



Woman with Bird, by Ursula Malbin

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56996>

First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Amy Jelensperger

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the insert

Fifth Sunday of Lent: UNPLUG

April 3, 2022

10:30am

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John.

On this day we come from many different places - to remember his story, to offer our worship and to give witness to our faith.

Gather us in, O God.

Leaving the security of home, family and daily work

Jesus began a brave new journey; may we be willing to embrace new paths and new ways.

Gather us in, and invite us to venture out, O God.

Knowing that Jesus would have begun this journey with human fears and apprehensions, we find the freedom to admit that we are not always courageous.

Gather us in and give us courage, O God.

Jesus remained open to the Spirit all the way, so as we gather to hear the familiar stories of Lent and Easter, may we be willing to hear them address us in new ways,

Gather us in and grant to us receptive hearts and minds, O God.

Ann Siddall, [Stillpoint Spirituality Centre](#)

GATHERING PRAYER

Creator God, you have formed us as your own, so whether we are weeping or laughing, dreaming or shouting for joy, we are always coming home to you. For all this and more, we thank you in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

HYMN: *#291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we come with hesitant steps and uncertain motives

to sweep out the corners where sin has accumulated,

and uncover the ways we have strayed from Your truth.

Expose the empty and barren places where we don't allow you to enter.

Reveal our half-hearted struggles where we have been indifferent

to the suffering of others.

Nurture the faint stirrings of new life, where your spirit has begun to grow.

Let your healing light transform us into the image of Your Son.

For You alone can bring new life and make us whole.

Christine Sine, [GodSpace Blog](#)

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

#579

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, John 12:1-8

SERMON: **“A New Way”**

Rev. Amy Jelensperger

THE 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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, all that we have comes from you. Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives, for we return to you only what you have so graciously given. Use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SONG BEFORE COMMUNION *#507 Come to the Table of Grace*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Holy, holy, holy...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you have put gladness in our hearts; you have satisfied our hunger with good things. In giving all, you have not withheld from us your own dear Son. How can we withhold anything from you, our Lord and our God? Renew us day by day with the gift of your Spirit, that we may give ourselves completely to your service and walk with joy in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: #835 *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

CHARGE —*Scott Cervas (www.liturgylink.com)*

The Spirit of God inspires . . . listen! The Spirit of God transforms . . . grow! The Spirit of God empowers . . . go . . . and be . . . and do! And may you . . . those you encounter . . . and those who are touched beyond that encounter . . . discover and know the grace, love, and peace of God each and every day. Amen.

BENEDICTION

We would like to thank Rev. Amy Jelensperger for sharing her gifts with us today.

Reminders:

Sunday, April 10 – Palm Sunday Worship – 10:30am

Thursday, April 14 – Maundy Thursday Worship – 7pm

Sunday, April 17 – Easter Sunday Worship – **11am (Note the time change)**

Sunday, May 22 – Celebration Sunday – 10:30am & Chicken Barbeque to follow

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Psalm 126

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
 we were like those who dream.
² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
 “The LORD has done great things for them.”
³ The LORD has done great things for us,
 and we rejoiced.
⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
 like the watercourses in the Negeb.
⁵ May those who sow in tears
 reap with shouts of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

John 12:1-8

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial." ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Hymns

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" #291

(Refrain)

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.

Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing;
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." (Refrain)

2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand
and you goaded your people with a law and a land.
When they were confounded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. (Refrain)

3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still.
And down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. (Refrain)

*4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams.
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. (Refrain)*

“Come to the Table of Grace” #507

*1 Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.*

*2 Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of peace.*

*3 Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.*

*4 Come to the table of hope. Come to the table of hope.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of hope.*

*5 Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of joy.*

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee” #835

(Refrain)

*Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

*1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I’ll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. (Refrain)*

*2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. (Refrain)*

*3 When my feeble life is o’er, time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o’er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. (Refrain)*