

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**March 14, 2021**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Lent**

*While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. The service is posted on the church's Facebook page, [on YouTube](#), and will be linked to the MPC website, [www.mpchurch.net](http://www.mpchurch.net). Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.*

**PRELUDE**                      *Fairest Lord Jesus*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Elder of the Month: Bruce Henry, 520-6413
- Deacon of the Month: Doug Rose, 532-3789

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Ps. 107:1*

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let us worship God.

**PRAYER**

Almighty God, through Jesus Christ you bring salvation to the world. Give us strength to believe in him, that we may share in his victory over the power of death and fulfill the purpose for which you have made us, for he dwells with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

This is the judgement, that the light has come into the world. For people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us uncover our sin before the liberating light of Christ.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints. We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we commit injustices through deceit. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding the earth's goods and cheating the poor. We protest the problems of our world, but we do not actively work to address them.

Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace. Heal our sin and free us from foolish ways that we may know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Silence is kept*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

### **HYMN**

*What Wondrous Love is This*

*GtG 215*

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Almighty God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, open your Word and illumine our darkened world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

*Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22*

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.  
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,  
those he redeemed from trouble  
and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.  
Some were sick through their sinful ways,  
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;  
they loathed any kind of food,  
and they drew near to the gates of death.  
Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he saved them from their distress;  
he sent out his word and healed them,  
and delivered them from destruction.  
Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to humankind.  
And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,  
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

The Word of God for the people of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**      *I Danced in the Morning*

**SECOND READING**

*John 3:14-21*

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Ben Shaw

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*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.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.

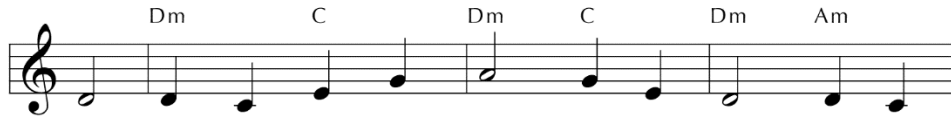
**BLESSING AND CHARGE**

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

# What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing  
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What  
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to  
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of  
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous  
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my  
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my  
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will  
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!  
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!  
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!  
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."