

COMMUNION MUSIC (URWB) *Please join in singing the hymn as we receive the elements.*

HYMN 124 The Hand of Heaven CHARTRES

HYMN 189 Touch the Earth Lightly BUNESSAN

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. May we be transformed into your image. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\* BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Want to know more about Following Jesus and Serving Others? To make Canterbury your home church, contact Rev. Tori Hastings at 868-6580 or [tori.hastings@canterburyumc.org](mailto:tori.hastings@canterburyumc.org).

### Little Brown Bag Spring Break Packing & Delivery

Sunday, March 19  
in Canterbury Hall

Help provide meals during Spring Break to the many Birmingham City School children who rely on their schools for breakfast and lunch. We will be packing 2,500 Little Brown Bags immediately after Worship on Sunday and delivering them to the children on Monday and Tuesday. Packing will begin immediately after Worship on Sunday and deliveries will begin on Monday and Tuesday at 10 a.m. out of Canterbury Hall. For information, contact Susan Bellows at [susanbellows@charter.net](mailto:susanbellows@charter.net) or 967-9865.

### Special Announcements

**In the Hospital / Rehab (as of March 8)**

Anne Collum.....St. Vincent's  
Mary Nell Glasscock.....St. Vincent's  
Bret Pippen.....St. Vincent's

**Thanksgiving for the Life of**

Tom Holton.....March 6, 2017



*Easter Lilies*  
To place an Easter lily in memory of or in honor of a friend or loved one, please complete this form:  
Placed in Honor \_\_\_\_ Memory \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
Make your check for \$15 per lily payable to Canterbury UMC and return it with a copy of this form to the church office or to Paul McCracken, no later than Palm Sunday, April 9.

## NEW TRADITIONS

MARCH 12, 2017

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

PREACHING — THE REVEREND TORI HASTINGS

LITURGIST — THE REVEREND WARREN NASH

CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST — DOCTOR LESTER SEIGEL

### JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

*“When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, ‘Surely he was the Son of God!’” (Matthew 27:54, NRSV)*

The Lenten journey is one that requires both the examination of scripture and the examination of self. We examine the scripture as a means of gaining a greater understanding of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The results of the increased knowledge we gain about the work of God through his Son, Jesus Christ, then begins to make claims on us. If Jesus is the Son of God, then what does that mean for how we are to live our lives? This question leads to our need for self-examination as we measure the impact and the influence of the resurrection story on how we live—especially in relationship with others.

The centurion who was on guard during the crucifixion of Jesus was moved by what he saw. We have no idea how many other crucifixions he observed before this one. We have no idea how long he had served in his position or how much violence he witnessed in his life. The only clue we have about this man is that he, along with others, experienced fear as the earth shook in response to the death of Jesus. This fear caused him to make a statement of faith—“Surely he was the Son of God!”

What was it that convinced the centurion and the other guards that Jesus was the Son of God? Throughout Matthew’s narrative, those non-believers gathered at the cross scorned Jesus and mocked him. They extended a sponge of bitter-tasting liquid to his lips in a mean-spirited gesture. They ridiculed him by joking that he had called for the prophet Elijah to come and save him. Then he died. As he died, an earthquake tore apart the rocks nearby. It appears that in their fear, the mockers became believers. Is that what convinced them?

I think the centurion and his associates came to believe in Jesus as the Son of God through the love of Jesus that was on display on the cross. Although the earthquake was a sign that something significant had happened in his death, it was his love that spilled out more than his blood. Jesus’ love covered those hard-hearted people with a blanket of grace they had never experienced before.

As you stand at the foot of the cross of Jesus, who do you see? What characteristics does the One upon whom you gaze embody? And what are you moved to declare in response to what you see? These are the questions for each of us that will shape our futures.

Dale Cohen, Senior Pastor



# ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

\*Congregation Please Stand

URWB - Upper Room Worship Book UMH - United Methodist Hymnal  
Words in bold type are spoken or sung by the congregation.

## WELCOME AND WORSHIP WORDS

\* HYMN 69 (URWB) Let All Creation Bless the Lord MIT FREUDEN ZART

COLLECT *The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.*

Holy Spirit of God, invisible like the wind, we do not see you moving among us, but your effect we can see. Come to our hearts: that we may be renewed and reborn. Open our minds: that we may perceive your kingdom. Lift up our eyes to where the cross of Christ stands for our healing: so may we believe, and in believing not die but have eternal life; through him who in your love for us you sent into the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALTER READING 844 (UMH) *sing Response 1* Psalm 121

\* GOSPEL PROCESSION (sing before and after GOSPEL LESSON)

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Your right - eous-ness,  
make Your way plain be - fore my face.

\* GOSPEL LESSON John 3: 1 - 17  
*The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.*

SERMON Rev. Tori Hastings

RESPONSE TO THE WORD  
HYMN 118 (URWB) Walk with Me GLASER

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Gracious God: Your Son Jesus Christ wept over Jerusalem and longs to gather your children under the wings of your love. We confess that often our thoughts, words and actions have betrayed the goodness you have shown to us. Forgive us, loving God. Though we have wandered far from home, help us to know that we are never out of the reach of your love. Lead us again to embrace the truth of your Word and to trust your never failing love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, says the Lord, yet I will not forget you. I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands. (from Isaiah 49:15-16)*

*All pray in silence*

Kyrie 482  
*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

## Words of Pardon

Pastor: *Believe the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.*

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

All: **Glory to God! Amen!**

\* THE PEACE *The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. And also with you.*

Sha - lom, Sha - lom, the peace of God be here. Sha - lom, sha - lom, God's jus - tice be ev - er near.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer.*

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS God So Loved the World John Stainer

God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.  
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but that the world through him might be saved.

\* WESLEY'S GRACE & DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

Be present at our table, Lord;  
be here and everywhere adored;  
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we  
may feast in paradise with Thee.

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING 37-40 (URWB)

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and might: hea - ven and earth are full, are  
full of Your glo - ry. O - - Bless - ed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord. Ho  
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

## THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Christ has died, Christ is ris - sen, Christ will come a - gain!

## AMEN

A - men, A - men, A - - - - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER 454 (URWB, chanted)

FRACTION ANTHEM 413 (URWB) Agnus Dei BELL AGNUS

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP BY INTINCTION AND KNEELING *All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Ushers will guide you.*