

Wandering Heart

"I'm fixed upon it"

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024





"I'm fixed upon it" | The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Fermata: In music, the fermata symbol represents a prolonged note or a pause. After learning Jesus would suffer and die, Peter rebukes Christ saying, "this must never happen to you" (Matt. 16:22). Jesus rebukes Peter right back, knowing he cannot yield on his journey of nonviolence and love. The fermata represents how Peter is fixed on how he wants things to go, but Jesus calls him to stop and get behind him. The symbol also looks like an empty tomb, which is foreshadowed in this story.

Introduction

When your world unravels and your beliefs are tested, you may cling to what you know. As Jesus foretells his death and resurrection, Peter protests. Peter is fixed upon the way he thinks things should go; he resists the pain of what will come. But Jesus is fixed upon his calling and calls Peter out. For everyone, there comes a time when your faith is tested and you will have to face difficult and inconvenient truths. We may want to take the easier path, the path with less pain. We may want to cling to easy or simplistic answers. Instead, what does it look like to welcome complexity? Can you stay fixed upon your convictions while also expanding your perspective?

Open Hands

A poem by Sarah (Are) Speed

We are born with the ability
to wrap our fingers around another,
to hold tight to what we know.
Maybe that's where the instinct comes from—
this clinging,
this sinking,
this holding on.
Maybe that's why Peter cries, "Never!"
when Jesus must leave.
From the very beginning
we've known how to hold tight.
So I pray:
open up my hands.
Uncurl my fingers
one by one.
Loosen the grip
that I hold unyielding.
Remind me that birds must fly
and children must grow
and leaves must fall.
And even though
we are born with the ability
to hold tight,
we can learn how to love
with open hands.

ELW = red hymnal

ACS = purple hymnal

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

Tuning Our Hearts: Come Thou Fount

Choir - "Come, Thou Fount" by Craig Courtney

We hear a special arrangement of "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," as we prepare our wandering hearts for worship. Today's theme comes from the following verse of "Come Thou Fount":

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! Im fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

**this verse has slightly different language than the one in the ELW.
It can be found in the Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal, verse 1.*

Call to Worship

On our worst days,

God is good.

On our best days,

God is good.

When life is consistent,

God is good.

And when life turns on its head,

God is good.

Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

God is good. God is here. God is love.

Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

Return to You: Wandering Heart Theme Song

Rick Carlson, soloist

Soloist:

I've read the stories of heartache and of glory.
I've prayed ev'ry prayer for you.
And I've tasted glory because you say we're worthy.
I've sung ev'ry song for you.

Chorus - All:

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of seven lines of music, each with a measure number above the staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with some notes beamed together. There are also rests and fermatas indicated.

1 But I have a wan-dering heart and a fick - le faith.

5 Can you find me here can I see your face?

10 Help me re - turn to you there's no - thing I'd ra - ther

14 do than re - turn to you, there's no - thing I'd ra - ther do. The

19 storm may rise, the trum - pet sound, the cur - tain tear, and e - ven now, re -

23 turn to you, there's no - thing I'd ra - ther

27 do than re - turn to you.

Soloist:

I'll leave the boat but when the storm comes, I'll let go
And I'll sink faster than a stone.
And I've called your name when the world is full of pain,
But I still need to see your hands.

All sing Chorus again

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense.
Like Peter, we want to yell out, *"This should not happen!"*
We want to control scenarios beyond our reach.
We want to hold your world in our hands.
Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity.
Forgive us for arguing when we could listen.
Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many.
Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen.
With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

...God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine.
We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven.
Now follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world.
Amen.

Song

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW 814

Prayer for Illumination

...Quiet the distractions long enough for us to affix ourselves to your good news.
We are listening.
We are hungry.
We are hopeful.
Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

After the reading: This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-23

Before the reading: The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading: The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Mike Opfermann



Hymn of the Day

The Way

Faith - ful - ly I learned to fol - low
Life was ea - sy, faith was sta - ble
Thread by thread my faith un - rav - eled
Though the way leads through steep can - yons

4
Step by step and not to stray
Then the path - way climbed up - hill
When the way be - came un - known
I sur - ren - der my con - trol

7
March - ing on with proud bra - va - do
Life got hard - er past the cra - dle
So - lid ground gave way to gra - vel
Christ is still my sure com - pan - ion

10
Claim - ing Je - sus as the way
Je - sus Christ I fol - lowed still
So I cling to Christ a - lone
As the path be - fore un - folds

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in a God of second chances,
**a God who sees through my stubbornness
and holds my fear with tenderness.**

I believe that this God of second chances
uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.

Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.

This change is holy and important work, although challenging.

**When fear and scarcity plague me,
or when the impossible feels out of reach,**

I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Trusting in our God who creates, redeems, and sustains all of creation, we pray for the church,
our world, and all those in need.

We sing:

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The third staff contains the melody for the third line, including a triplet and a 'Last time' ending. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

To you all hearts are o - pen, to
you all de - sires known. To you there are no
se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you.

Each petition concludes: We open our hearts to you, O God. **Hear our prayer.**

We sing "To You All Hearts Are Open" again before the prayers conclude.

Accompany us as we journey and receive these prayers of our hearts through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

At this time, we share God's peace with our neighbors. Congregation is then seated for the offering.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

The Table is prepared as offering and worship record cards are collected and brought forward.

Offering Prayer

Loving God,

Our journey in faith is one that ebbs and flows,

seeks and wanders,

yet you have drawn us to this table.

As Christ welcomes Peter who drops his nets to follow,

receive these, the offerings of our hearts,

and prepare us to meet at this table,

your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Thanks be to God.

Communion

All are welcome to Christ's table!

In this meal, we meet Jesus and the expansive life He brings. An usher will invite you forward to the communion rail. You may kneel or stand as you are able. You will receive a wafer from Pastor and an individual cup of red wine or white grape juice. You may then drop your cup in the basket, stand, and return to your seat via the side aisle. If you would like to receive communion from Pastor, but are unable to come up front, please let an usher know and Pastor will come to you.

Where is the chalice and homemade bread? Lent is a season of longing for and returning to Jesus. We have simplified the elements and chosen to kneel before the cross. The common cup and fresh bread will return, like the "Alleluia," on Easter Sunday.

Communion Songs

Change My Heart, O God
Lamb Of God: Your Only Son
Be Thou My Vision

ELW 801

ELW 336

ELW 793

Prayer after Communion

Generous God,

In this meal, we have met your beloved Son.

In this meal, we have feasted upon your grace.

In this meal, your love for imperfect people has been made known.

Send us forth to share this love and grace with all those we encounter.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Sending Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335

Benediction

Beloved wanderer,

as you leave this place,

may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.

May you look for God in every face.

May you find the courage to get out of the boat,

to run to the tomb,

and to speak of your faith.

And when the world falls apart,

may you hear God's voice deep within,

saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."

You are called.

You are blessed.

In both your ups and your downs,

you always belong to God.

Go now in peace.

Go trusting that good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Next Sunday "Teach Me"

Coffee Bar & Reflection on Art 8:45am

Worship 9:30am

Coffee with Luther (Fellowship) 10:30am



St. Patrick's Day

Reuben sale/lunch

Sunday, March 17th

to benefit Pilgrim's youth attending the
ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans

PRE-ORDER PLEASE

Order forms are on the welcome table in the narthex. Please fill out
and return to the Carlsons' mailbox by **March 10th**.

Payment can be accepted at time of order or on March 17th.

(Cash or Check—payable to Pilgrim Lutheran)

**Freshly-grilled-on-site Reuben sandwich (with cheese, sauerkraut, and a
side of homemade dressing), kettle chips, and a drink—\$12.50**

(*special requests possible on order form)

Orders can be for lunch served at Pilgrim or for take-out

10:45-11:15am



**Midweek Study and Devotion
Wednesdays at 10am**

Continuing through March 20, 2024

**Lenten Midweek
Soup Supper & Worship**

Wednesday Evenings

6:00pm: Soup

7:00pm: Worship



Available at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex:

40 Days of Giving Bags

Serving in Worship

	This Morning 9:30am	Next Sunday March 17
Musician:	Michelle Carlson	Cindy Rogers
Worship Assistant:	Rick Carlson	Michelle Carlson
Worship Coordinator:	Everette Yaek	Fred Russell
Usher:	Peggy Yaek	Robie Clearwood
Acolyte:	Jacob Smith	Luke Metdepenningen
Greeter:	Dennis Smith	Pam Glearwood
Coffee Bar Attendant:	Fred & Jean Russell	Karen McCormick
Coffee With Luther Host:	Fred & Jean Russell	ELCA Gathering
		Reuben Sale/Lunch
Altar Guild:	Gale Smith	Nancy Bond
Offering Tellers:	Tammy Bakko	Angie Tucker
	Ann Herrick	Jeff Tucker
	This Wednesday March 13	Next Wednesday March 20
Soup Supper Coordinator:	Doreen Vernier	Doreen Vernier
Musician:	Michelle Carlson	Michelle Carlson
Worship Coordinator:	Bill Kauffman	Jim Thornhill

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The Beacon: Pilgrim's Weekly E-news

Stay up to date on all things Pilgrim with our Thursday newsletter!



Scan for this week's news



Scan to subscribe to our emails



Altar Flowers

We do not decorate the sanctuary with flowers throughout the season of Lent. You can sign up to purchase flowers through March 18th for Easter Sunday on the bulletin board in the hallway. Flowers cost \$10- \$23 and may be given in memory or honor of someone or an important life moment.

Stay Connected

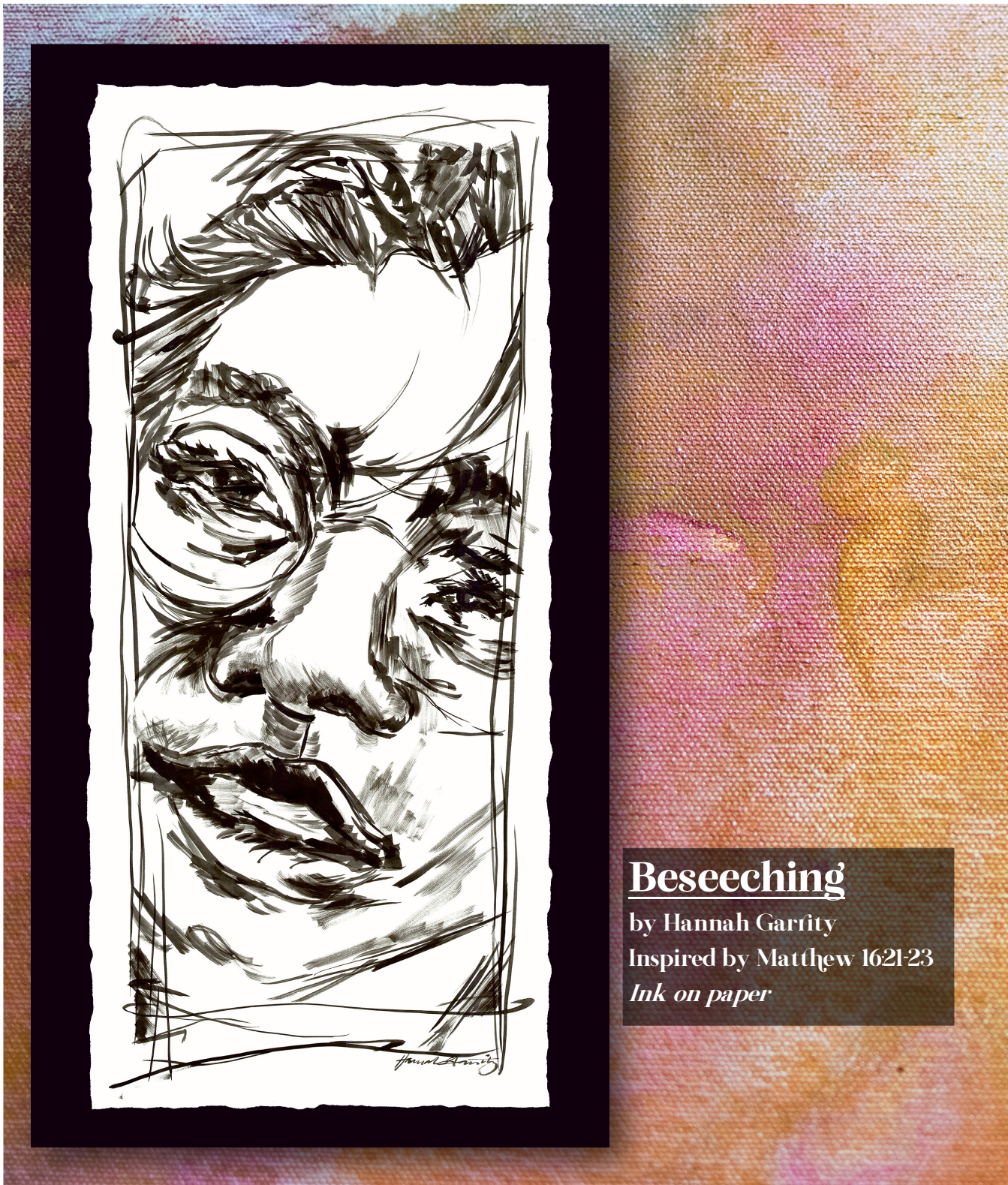
www.pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org
facebook.com/plemarysville

Pastor Mike: plepastor@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org
Michelle, Dir. of Music: plemusic@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org
Sheri, Office Manager: plcoffice@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org

WIFI: PILGRIM Password: YouAreLoved

Sunday's Texts

Psalm 119:9-16 & Matthew 18:15-22



Beseeching

by Hannah Garfity
Inspired by Matthew 1621-23
Ink on paper