

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death

can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

† **Hymn of Affirmation #442:** *Just As I Am, without One Plea*

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory Music: *Pastorale*

Eugene Gigout

† **Doxology #609:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

† **Prayer of Dedication**

Taking the Word of God into the World

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer (p. 35)

† **Hymn of Inspiration #187:** *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

† **Benediction**

† **Response #227:** *Jesus, Remember Me*

Jacques Berthier

† **Postlude:** *Festive Voluntary*

Henry Purcell

First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena

Third Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2016

10:30 am

Lord, open unto me

Open unto me - light for my darkness.

Open unto me - courage for my fear.

Open unto me - hope for my despair.

Open unto me - peace for my turmoil.

Open unto me - joy for my sorrow.

Open unto me - strength for my weakness.

Open unto me - wisdom for my confusion.

Open unto me - forgiveness for my sins.

Open unto me - love for my hates.

Open unto me - thy Self for my self.

Lord, Lord, open unto me! Amen.

Howard Thurman (1900-1981)



Leading in Worship Today..

Rev. Mark Downs Preaching

Rhonda Haskins, Liturgist

Marilyn Wilkins, Music Director

Martha Braswell, Organ

Barry Webb, Audio-Visual Ministry



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Service for the Lord's Day

Gathering Around the Word of God

Welcome and Life of the Church

Minute for Mission

Prelude: *My Faithful Heart Rejoices*

Johannes Brhams

Introit #775: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

arr. Nolan Williams

† Call to Worship:

Leader: Is anyone thirsty?

All: Come and drink!

Leader: Is anyone hungry?

All: Enjoy the finest food at the table of the Lord!

Leader: What more do we need?

All: The Lord has made an everlasting covenant and promised unfailing love.

† **Hymn of Praise #418:** *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

Corporate Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you. We shake our heads at others' calamity, yet ignore the signs of our own destruction. We enjoy a prized place in your garden, yet year after year fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us, God of grace. Give us the wisdom to repent and be reconciled to you, so that we may have the gift of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe and live the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

† **Glory Be to The Father (Gloria Patri) #580**

† **Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Chancel Time with Children

"Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love.
Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love."

Anthem: *Lamb of God*

arr. Lloyd Larson

Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent Him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.
Your gift of love they crucified, they laughed and scorned Him as He died,
the humble King they named a fraud, and sacrificed the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in His precious blood. My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

I was so lost I should have died, but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in His precious blood. My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in His precious blood, precious blood, Lamb of God,
till I am just a lamb of God.

Proclaiming the Word of God

Prayer for Illumination #466: *Come and Fill Our Hearts*

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!

First Lesson: Psalm 63:1-8 (p. 409)

Sermon Lesson: Luke 13:1-9 (p. 738)

Sermon: "God Doesn't Ask a Fig Tree to Produce Bananas"

Rev. Mark Downs

Responding to the Word of God

† **Affirmation of Faith—A Brief Statement of Faith**

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ,

fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,