

† **Hymn of Affirmation #223:** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

**Offering Our Gifts to God**

† **Offertory Music:** *I Stand on the Threshold*

J. S. Bach

† **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 #494:** *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

† **Benediction**

† **Response #776 (v. 1,4):** *O God, Be Gracious*

Thomas Tallis

† **Postlude:** *Built on the Rock*

arr. Flor Peeters

# First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena

*Fifth Sunday in Lent.*

*March 13, 2016*

*10:30 am*

God, help my thoughts! They stray from me, setting off on the wildest journeys.  
When I am in church, they run off like naughty children, quarreling, making trouble.  
When I read the Bible, they fly to a distant city, filled with beautiful women.  
My thoughts can cross an ocean with a single leap; they can fly from earth to heaven,  
and back again, in a single second.  
They come to me for a fleeting moment, and then away they flee.  
No chains, no locks can hold them back; no threats of punishment can restrain them,  
no hiss of a lash can frighten them.  
They slip from my grasp like tails of eels; they swoop hither and thither like swallows in flight.  
Dear, chaste, Christ, who can see into every heart and read every mind,  
take hold of my thoughts. Bring my thoughts back to me, and clasp me to yourself.

-A Celtic Prayer



Leading in Worship Today..

Rev. Jim Currie Preaching  
Ruth Askine, 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:** *Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee*

arr. Flor Peeters

**Introit #782:** *Hear My Prayer, O God*

Hal H. Hopson

#### † Call to Worship:

Leader: Like Mary, who lavished her treasure on the feet of Christ,

**All: we come now to worship and offer ourselves to the Lord.**

Leader: The things we once treasured are worthless,

**All: compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus!**

† **Hymn of Praise #187:** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

#### Corporate Prayer of Confession:

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you. We fix our minds on former things, missing the new thing you are doing. We focus on worldly treasure and gain, forgetting the value of knowing Christ. Forgive us, God of grace. Through the great mystery of faith deliver us from our captivity to sin and lead us from death to 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:** *For Love of You*

John Carter

Kneel with me, here in Gethsemane;  
All of this I gladly do for love of you.  
Walk with me, up the hill to Calvary;  
Every step I gladly take for your dear sake.  
Cry with me on the cross of Calvary;  
Wear the crown I gladly wore,  
Bear the pain I gladly bore.  
Die with me, here alone at Calvary;  
All of this I gladly do for love, undying love of you.

#### **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:** Isaiah 43:16-21 (p. 515)

**Sermon Lesson:** Luke 19:11-27 (p.743)

**Sermon:** "Joy in the Face of the Majesty of God"

Rev. Jim Currie

#### **Responding to the Word of God**

#### † **Affirmation of Faith**

This is the good news which we have received,  
in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved,  
if we hold it fast:  
that Christ died for our sins  
according to the scriptures,  
that he was buried,  
that he was raised on the third day,  
and that he appeared  
first to the women,  
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God.  
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end;  
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.