

When Mary Poured a Rich Perfume

(Tune: Ellecombe)

When Mary poured a rich perfume on Jesus' weary feet,
Her caring filled that humble room; the fragrance there was sweet.
But full of anger, Judas said, "We could have used this more!
Why was her gift not sold instead, and given to the poor?"

The Lord replied, "Leave her alone! She bought it for this day.
This caring love that she has shown is faithful to God's way.
The poor will always be with you, but you will not have me."
He blessed her and he thanked her, too, for giving lavishly.

O Christ, what can your people bring to show you thanks and love?
You need no fragrant offering; for now you reign above.
Since there will never cease to be the poor throughout the land,
May we, your church, serve faithfully by offering them our hand.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025

The First Supper: Risking Rejection

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

PRELUDE

Entering the Passion (Bell)

Kevin Crone, piano

CANDLELIGHTING & CHOIR PROCESSION

GREETING & WELCOME

Pastor:

We continue our journey through Lent as we step inside the story full of difficult moments. We put ourselves in the picture of Holy Week so that we might take a closer look and let the ancient story open us to deeper love for Jesus. Besides the Last Supper, Holy Week contains another important story that happens at dinner. Early in the week, Jesus and his followers gather for a meal, and a woman shows up unexpectedly to anoint Jesus in an extravagant show of devotion. To say she caused quite a "stir" might be understating it a bit. We imagine ourselves in the room and we see the looks of judgment and even outrage on the faces around us. Are we ourselves moved by her generosity and outpouring of emotion? Or are we uncomfortable as Jesus refers to his own death? Does our complaining or anger really serve to hide our own fear? Jesus invites us to tell this story "in remembrance of her." What uncomfortable stories are we called to tell in our time?

INTROIT

Entering the Passion

En - ter. En-ter the pas - sion. En-ter the place we be-long,

not just look-ing on. For this is our pas - sion. En-ter the pas - sion,

En-ter the sto - ry... En-ter the pas - sion... En-ter His pas - sion...

INVITATION TO THE CONFESSION

Liturgist: Let us take some time now, in silence, to confess our fears about giving ourselves fully to Jesus and his Ways. We will then, pray together in one voice. (Moment of silence for personal confession time)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: It is so hard not to be afraid. Sometimes our fear makes us less compassionate, and more judgmental. We think we can ward off getting hurt by holding back, unwilling to risk putting ourselves out there for the sake of love. Forgive us, O God. Encourage us to extravagant acts of love, especially when we are frightened. You entered our story through Jesus, now help us to enter fully into the story of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

OPENING HYMN *When Mary Poured a Rich Perfume* Bulletin, Page 4

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS & PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: Beloved children of God, know this: There are people whose lives have been changed *completely* by Christ's story of love and passion. Transformation IS possible. Hear the Good News: You are forgiven and freed, encouraged and loved by a God who wants you to live fully. This gives us peace. Let us pass the peace of Christ with each other, using the words: Peace be with you

All people: And also with you.

WELCOME HYMN TO CHILDREN *I Love to Tell the Story* Blue Hymnal #480

THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES *"Showing Jesus Love"* Mark 14:3-9

HYMN *More Love to Thee, O Christ (Verses 1 & 2, only)* Blue Hymnal #527

SECOND READING Psalm 23

A CHARACTER EMERGES FROM THE STORY Mrs. Lynda Shearer, dramatist

SUNG RESPONSE *More Love to Thee, O Christ (Verses 3 & 4)* Blue Hymnal, #527

SERMON Rev. Laura C. Baker

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

All people: 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM *The Lord is My Shepherd* (Hughes) Chancel Choir

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Your generosity in time, talent and treasure is witness to our deeply held values. Jesus says: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Let us offer our lives to the Lord with a song and prayer.

OFFERING RESPONSE *More Love to Thee, O Christ (Verse 1)* Blue Hymnal #527

OFFERING PRAYER

All people: In the life, death and resurrection of Christ, have shown us, O God, the sacrifice that you desire. Now use these gifts—and use our lives—to liberate the oppressed, to break the bonds of injustice, to feed the hungry, welcome the poor, and unite the human family. Amen.

HYMN *The Servant Song* Blue Hymnal #490

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Pastor: Each week, the Worship Committee and I invite you to take photos... (continues)...Use one of the corresponding signs for your pictures. Then, at the end of Lent, we will use your photos to create something very special out of the collection of people photographed in this church.

All people: This season we are putting a frame around a bit of life; we will section off a scriptural scene; we will look long into a face, to see what we can see; to know what we can know.

Liturgist: Just as we have done with the art and story today...(continues)...in the stories around us, in the heartbreak and pain and joy and awe of a simple moment turned significant.

All people: That's what happens when we put a frame around it. We zoom in for a close-up and search for clues for living this life with more attention and intention.

Pastor: May you be blessed by the sacred frames that surround the moments of your life - that you dare not miss!

POSTLUDE *Exiting the Passion* (Bell)

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING ACOLYTE

WORSHIP LEADERS & CHOIR RECESS

THE BODY OF CHRIST EXITS THE SANCTUARY AND ENTERS THE WORLD