

SCHOENBRUNN COMMUNITY MORAVIAN CHURCH
We are Christ called, Christ centered, Christ sent...loving all.
2200 EAST HIGH AVE, NEW PHILADELPHIA, OH 44663
(Phone) 330.339.1940 (Website) scmchurch.org

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19th, 2023

Ministers	All of Us!
Pastor	Rev. Ben Lippert
Director of Music/Organist	Angie Miller
Elder of the Month	Steve Pasquinelli
Trustee of the Month	Kathy Cummings
Media Technician	Denny Drumm
Media Production	Paula Drumm

*****Watchword for the week: *“Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.”- Psalm 23:6*

WORDS OF WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH

*PASSING THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK

PRELUDE

*HYMN “HAIL, O ONCE DESPISED JESUS” MBW#330

LITURGY “LENT 2” MBW#78-81

SCRIPTURE LESSON
1 SAMUEL 16:1-13
JOHN 4:5-42

PRAYER

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY “PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW” MBW# 817
*PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW;
PRAISE HIM ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW;
PRAISE HIM ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST;
PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

LOVING SAVIOR,
TEACH US TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND FOR CREATION JUST AS YOU TAUGHT YOUR DISCIPLES TO DO. AMEN

Children’s Lesson

*HYMN “CRASHING WATERS AT CREATION “ MBW #767

MESSAGE “Jesus on Trial: The Fourth Witness”

*HYMN “HEART WITH LOVING HEART UNITED “ MBW #401

BENEDICTION

*CHIME

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand, as able.*
† Reprinted with permission from "Moravian Daily Texts 2020" © 2019
†† Lyrics from: <https://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/nlb/special-occassions/special-epiphany-a-b-c.html>

Prayers of the People

Church and World: For all families and churches of Tuscarawas County; for the ministries of our Eastern District and Northern Province; for the shared work of the worldwide Moravian Unity; for all who risk their lives for the gospel; for refugees and victims of natural disasters and violence around the world and for those who work to provide shelter, healing, and peace. We think especially of the people of Ukraine.

Military and Families: Carter Baker, Adam Porter, Bret Penik, Kyle Springer, Nathan Zinser, Anna Sandoval, Ben Miller.

Healing, Comfort and Peace: Missy Martin, Karen Chaney, Doris Gardner, Georgia Sweaney, Dixie Lewis, Clint Svancara, Ginny, East Palestine, Turkey and Syria, Tim Northrop, Lynn Reichmann. Sr., Justin and Alyssa, Tim Reynolds, Melinda Knisley, Steph Heavlin, Amanda Lippert Rev. Steve Patrick, Evelyn Bennett, Zander Kerpatrick, Bill Martin, James Leslie, Bob McCoy, Tyler Cox, Callie Reynolds, Eric Fondriest, Miracle Knight, Fred Sullivan, Robert Carrier, Steve Pasquinelli, Evelyn Bennett, Janet West, , Tammie Reynolds, Tammy Bennett, COVID-19 Victims.

Families Bereaved: Jim Menapace, Mary Baker, Jane Rosetti, Gary Beamer, Rev. Adam Spaugh, Doug Stafford, Tyre Nichols, Brayden Wrana.

Homebound Members and Friends: Lynne Capretta (Northwood Inn), Janet West (New Dawn).

To add prayers please contact Prayer Chain: 330-339-1940 or pastor@scmchurch.org.

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Week 4- Trial of Jesus

Bailiff: Here ye! Here ye! Please rise for the honorable judge from the highest court of the heavenly realm.

(Judge enters and sits)

Judge: Thank you. Please be seated. Court is now in session. The prosecutor has made quite a colorful and interesting case for the court.

Prosecutor: Why thank you, your honor. That compliment was unexpected and left me blushing.

Judge: I meant interesting like the way a train wreck is interesting. Interesting like watching a Browns game in the 4th quarter. You don't expect them to win, but you watch with eager anticipation to see what new and painful way they will blow the game this week.

Prosecutor: Ouch, your honor that hurts deeply.

Judge: Defense attorney, I turn this case over to you and your wisdom. Who will your first witness be?

Defense Attorney: We would like to call Mary Magdalene to the stand.

(Mary Magdalene appears)

Defense Attorney: Mary, thank you for joining us. Where did you first encounter Jesus of Nazareth?

Mary Magdalene. Jesus came to our village and healed many. He personally cleansed me of seven demons.

Prosecutor: Your Honor, the witness of her own volition states that she is mentally unfit. I move that she be removed from the witness list.

Mary Magdalene: I am fine your honor. (very sarcastic) Sorry, Mr.fancypants prosecutor but the pharmacy and psychologist didn't come around our town for another 1,500 years.

Judge: I'll be the judge of the competence of witnesses. Prosecutor, your objection is overruled.

Defense Attorney: Thank you, your honor. Now, where was I before I was so rudely interrupted...What was it like to receive a miracle from Jesus? What did you get out of it?

Mary Magdalene: It was more like what Jesus took off me. It was like the biggest weight had been lifted off my shoulders. Jesus freed me to be the very person God created me to be without all the unnecessary distractions that were getting in the way.

Defense Attorney: How well did you know him?

Mary Magdalene: Very well. I was one of his closest disciples.

Prosecutor: Objection that is a lie. Nowhere in Scripture is Mary Magdalene listed as one of the 12 disciples.

Mary Magdalene: Tell you what buddy. If you name all 12 of them I'll amend my statement.

Prosecutor: Very well. Alvin, Theodore, and Simon....

Mary Magdalene: Those are Chipmunks.

Prosecutor: How about Peter, Paul, and Ringo?

Mary Magdalene: Those are The Beatles. Also, no one 2,000 years ago was named Ringo.

Prosecutor: Very well, continue.

Mary Magdalene: As I was saying I was incredibly close to Jesus. He never put me down because of my past mental health struggles or because of my gender. He always looked for ways to make me feel included with others.

Defense Attorney: The prosecution is alleging that Jesus was a nice teacher, but that the resurrection never took place.

Mary Magdalene: That is preposterous. I saw my best friend and teacher get flogged and beaten. I listen to the bone-chilling screams of his mother. I still remember the sounds of the nails. I saw his last breath and could taste the bitterness of my tears rolling down my cheek. I was so angry with him that day.

Defense Attorney: Why were you angry?

Mary Magdalene: He could have saved himself and chose to do nothing. I didn't understand it until the unbelievable things I saw two days later.

Defense Attorney: What did you see on Sunday?

Mary Magdalene: We went to bring spices for his body that morning and I saw the most remarkable thing. An angel of the Lord appeared before us. He said, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him."¹

Defense Attorney: How did that make you feel?

Mary Magdalene: Terrified and in awe. I was utterly speechless. I saw something with my eyes that my heart was not ready to believe.

Defense Attorney: No further questions your honor.

(The Prosecutor arises)

¹ Mark 16:5-6

Prosecutor: Mary, Mary, quite contrary. Aren't you known for having quite a reputation?

Mary Magdalene: A reputation for what?

Prosecutor: You Know.

Mary Magdalene: No, I don't know. A reputation for being honest?

Prosecutor: (cooly) No. For being friendly. A little too friendly.

(Prosecutor approaches the witness)

Prosecutor: Aren't you known for being a promiscuous peach? A lady of the night?

A woman whose services could be purchased for a fun evening on the town?

Something along those lines.

Defense Attorney: Objection, your honor.

Judge: On what grounds, counselor?

Defense Attorney: I don't know the grounds, but the prosecutor is creeping everyone out, including my witness. Make him stop!

Judge: Prosecutor, let us get back on track. Where are you going with this?

Prosecutor: As I was saying

(Mary Magdalene interrupts)

Mary Magdalene: It's ok. I will answer the prosecutor's insinuations. There is not a single shred of truth or any Biblical evidence that I was anything other than a devoted disciple of Jesus Christ.

Prosecutor: Then, why do so many people speak of your tarnished reputation like it is an unconditional fact?

Mary Magdalene: They couldn't handle the truth.

Prosecutor: Oh really, what is the truth then?

Mary Magdalene: I was the first one to see the Risen Savior and share the Good news that he had risen from the dead.

It was plain old me. Not a fancy rabbi. Not a powerful man. Not even one of the twelve. Jesus chose to reveal himself to a woman just like me. People have tried to undermine that decision by Jesus for over 2,000 years.

Prosecutor: Who did you think it was when he first appeared?

Mary Magdalene: I thought it was the gardener or an enemy of ours sent to desecrate the body of my Lord.

Prosecutor: You mean, this man you claim to know intimately and changed your entire life around to follow and serve. A person you witnessed with your own eyes died days before....You couldn't even recognize him in his own tomb. I believe in

a lot of things Mrs. Magdalene, but I found the veracity of that statement to be hard to believe.

Mary Magdalene: I'm not proud of it, but I needed to see with my own eyes that Jesus rose from the dead. I'm in awe of people today who have not seen him with their own eyes but still believe.

Prosecutor: Were his clothes bloodied?

Mary Magdalene: No, they were not.

Prosecutor: Was his body frail after being crucified just a few days ago?

Mary Magdalene: The only thing the disciples and I could see was the nail holes in his hand.

Prosecutor: Are you aware of anyone bandaging or treating his wounds.

Mary Magdalene: Sorry, I am not.

Prosecutor: Did any disciples leave him a change of clothes on the day he was buried?

Mary Magdalene: I am not sure.

Prosecutor: Then, where do you think his new wardrobe came from?

Mary Magdalene: I have no clue, sir.

Prosecutor. No clue, that sums up your entire testimony Ms. Magdalene. You couldn't spot Jesus' identity. You can't tell us why he was no longer bleeding or wounded. You don't even know if he changed his clothes or left the scene of the crime. What do you know?

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, once again a lack of compelling evidence can be found. If this disciple in close proximity of Jesus does not know, then a verdict of no resurrection must be so. Let me say it again. If Mary does not know, then a verdict of no resurrection must be so.

Your honor, I have no further questions.

Judge: The court will take a brief recess before we hear from the last witness of the defense.

(Gavel bangs)

Bailiff: Please Rise, for the honorable judge. The court is no longer in session.