

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a warm greeting of Christian Fellowship to you.

*Congregation standing for those who are able

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

Our Approach to God

Prelude

Canon in D

Pachelbel

The Call to Worship

Gather now for worship, all who would give praise to God Almighty!

God truly is almighty and there is nothing the Lord cannot do.

Let us worship God, who reconciles us to himself through Christ.

We praise God with our whole heart. We glorify the name of the Most High forever.

*The Hymn of Praise

The God of Abraham Praise

488

*The Call to Confession

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*The Prayer of Confession

God of everlasting love, you sent your only Son to reconcile us to yourself. We confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving only you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. We have not given you first place in our lives. Forgive us. [Silent confession.] Merciful God, bring us back into the fulness of our covenant with you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

Jesus Christ was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification. Through faith, by grace, we are saved. Our sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

*The Gloria Patri

Glory Be to the Father

579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Anthem

O God Beyond All Praising

Lamb

JuBELLation Choir

The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Old Testament Reading Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16

page 16 OT

The New Testament Reading

Romans 4:18-25

page 206 NT

The Gospel Reading

Mark 8:31-38

page 60 NT

The Sermon

Pastor Ruth Estell

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed(traditional)

hymnal, page 14

*The Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, verses 1,2,4

101

The Morning Prayers and the Lord's Prayer(using sins)

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.

Announcements and Upcoming Event



Lenten Bible Study

We will continue our Lenten Bible Study on Thursday, February 29, at 6:45 pm. The study will be based on Elizabeth Caldwell's book *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms*. You do not need to buy or read the book ahead of time. All are invited to come and take this time to pause during this Lenten season.

Easter Lilies

We will decorate our sanctuary this year with Easter lilies for the Easter Sunday service. If you would like to order one in honor or memory of someone, there are order forms in the gathering area. Flowers are \$12.00 each and **must be ordered by March 10th**.



You're invited.....

...to a **Special Fellowship Hour TODAY** (immediately following worship) in Fellowship Hall in honor of **Laurel Taipale and Deanna Patton** for sharing their musical talents during the search for a new music director!



Music Ministry News

You are invited to meet and greet our Director of Music Ministry, Thomas Heidenreich, on Saturday, March 2nd at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Also, There will be no choir or bell choir rehearsals this week and the choir will not be singing on Sunday, March 3. Choir rehearsal will resume on Wednesday, March 6. It has not yet been determined when bell choir will resume. Stay tuned! If you have ever considered joining choir, this is a great time to give it a try! All are welcome! Come to the first rehearsal with Thomas on Wednesday, March 6, at 7:00 pm.



Rescue Mission Lunches

Saturday, **March 2**, please join us in the church kitchen to assemble bag lunches for the Saginaw Rescue Mission. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the church kitchen (Please enter from parking lot through Fellowship Hall door) to visit and share in the work of making sandwiches and lunches for those struggling with hunger.



Bake Sale



We will have a bake sale during the fish fry on Friday, March 15. We will need donations of baked goods to sell (plated and ready), and volunteers to set-up, price, sell the items donated, and clean up after the sale. There are sign-up sheets for the bake sale in the gathering area. If you have any questions, please call Carol Poole @ 989-793-7485. All proceeds from the bake sale go to Florence Gilmore Circle (Second Presbyterian Women's group) which provides funding for the Rescue Mission lunches, along with donations to many charitable organizations.



Our Fish Fry is fast approaching on **Friday, March 15, 2024!** Please consider distributing the enclosed flyer to a friend or business and sharing our event on Facebook!

We will need plenty of help to make this fish fry a success. It really is a fun event! Sign-up sheets are in the gathering area. Proceeds from the sale go to the Presbyterian Men's Group, which performs many of the maintenance jobs around the church.

Prayer of Illumination

Lord God,
Help us to know your ways; teach us your paths.
Lead us in your truth, for you are the God of our salvation.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16 NIV

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

¹⁵ God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.

Romans 4:18-25 NIV

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." ²³ The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Mark 8:31-38 NIV

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life[Ⓜ] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."