

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023

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 Herzlich tut mich verlangen, BWV 727 J.S. Bach

The Call to Worship

Come home. Come to the place of healing.

Come, let your thirst be quenched.

Come to God's embrace.

Come, let your heart be blessed.

Come home. Find yourself loved. Discover a life to be lived and a song to be sung.

*The Hymn of Praise The Glory of These Forty Days 87

*The Call to Confession

Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah:

But now thus says the Lord who created you,

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the water, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flames shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

Trusting in the saving grace of Jesus Christ, let us together confess our sins.

*The Prayer of Confession

God of day and God of darkness, all our time belongs to you. Yet how often we fail to notice your nearness, feel your presence, trust your guidance. We desire only good times, happy moments, and miss

your work in the shadows. We avoid conflict with others and fear looking deep within ourselves. Sometimes it feels we have no place left to run, no place left to hide. Loving God, hold us during these Lenten days so we can look at ourselves, our relationships, our openness to you. In brightness or darkness, let us always know your healing, freeing, guiding presence. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gloria Patri 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 L. Lamb
JuBELLation Choir

The Word of God

The Time with the Children Marsha Bennett

The Gospel Reading John 11:38-44 page 1530

The Sermon Ew, Ew, That Smell Rev. Brant Piper

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith (A Brief Statement of Faith)

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, 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

Liturgist: Samantha Engel

Greeter: Betty Miller

Ushers: Patty Donahue, and Randy Weirda

Fellowship Hour: The Hunts

Musical Talents: Thomas Heidenreich – Director of Music Ministry, and the Chancel and JuBELLation Choirs

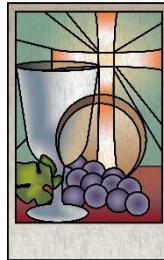
Announcements and Upcoming Events

2nd@ Second will meet in the library following Fellowship Time. This week we will continue with Ch 5 of *Meeting Jesus on the Road*. Grab a goodie & come join us!



The office will be open Monday - Thursday 10:00-2:00 but, as unforeseen circumstances may occur, please call 989-792-1023 to be sure that someone is in the office before you drive to the church.

Sunday, March 29 is Palm Sunday. Communion will be celebrated during the worship service. We hold an open Communion at Second Presbyterian Church which means all believing Christians are welcome to participate. We also invite you to bring non-perishable food items for **The Ecumenical Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church**. We do so knowing that it is our privilege to feed the hungry and care for the poor as we are fed and sustained by the grace of God.



Soup Supper:

Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 PM – Soup Supper at First Presbyterian. Bring a soup to share and, if you can, a dessert is appreciated. Beverage and bread are provided – along with our four soup tester trays so we can try all the different kinds. Following, a little fun history on Lent and Thomas will show the organ repairs, for those interested. Everybody is welcome!

Mission News:

For March, one of the congregation's historically favorite missions to support will again be the Old Town Baby Pantry. It is important to know that the Pantry requests items donated should be for infants from **0 to 9 months of age**; these may include clothing, diapers, wipes, toys, blankets, and other items appropriate for the care of this age group.

