

# Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025 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 O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig (variation 1), BWV 656 J. S. Bach  
*from The Leipzig Chorales*

The Call to Worship

God says to us, "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters."  
**We eagerly come. As the deer pants for streams of water, so our souls thirst for God.**

God says, "Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live."  
**We seek the Lord and listen for his voice. We turn our ears and our hearts toward God.**

God has called us to worship. Let us give him all our praise.  
**Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

\*The Hymn of Praise *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* 454

\*The Call to Confession

As we seek the Lord, let us repent of our sins and forsake our sinful ways.  
Let us turn to God so that we may receive his mercy and forgiveness.

\*The Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you lovingly sent Jesus to this world for our salvation. We confess that we so often point the accusing finger at others, failing to acknowledge our own sinfulness. Convict us of our sin and guilt. By your grace, you call us to repent. We confess that too often we repent in word only and our lives fail to bear the fruit of our repentance. Forgive us for failing to live redeemed and renewed lives. [Silent confession.] Lord, in your mercy, may our lives show evidence of the good work that you are doing in us. May we reflect your love and light. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

\*The Assurance of Pardon

Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Whoever believes in him will not perish, but will have eternal life. In Christ, 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 All to Jesus I Surrender W. Weeden

## The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 55:1-7 page 1056

The Gospel Reading Luke 13:1-9 page 1486

The Sermon *Have you repented?* Pastor Ruth Estell

## Our Response to Serve

\*The Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed(traditional) hymnal, page 14

\*The Hymn *Kind Maker of the World* 79

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.**

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig (variation 2), BWV 656    Bach  
*from The Leipzig Chorales*

\*The Doxology    *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*    592  
**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. Amen.**

\*The Prayer of Dedication

\*The Hymn    *God, Bless Your Church with Strength!*    418

\*The Charge and Benediction

\*The Congregational Response    *Go with Us, Lord*    535  
**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,  
That in Your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to You.**

Postlude    O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig (variation 3), BWV 656    J. S. Bach  
*from The Leipzig Chorales*

**Liturgist :** Connor Rousseau

**Ushers:** Bob Donaldson, Cheryl Kelley, Larry Smith

**Greeter:** Betty Miller

**Fellowship Hour:**

**Musical Talents:** Thomas Heidenreich – Director of Music Ministry and The  
Chancel Choir.

**Please join us immediately following worship in the gathering area for  
fellowship hour.**

**\*\*\*2<sup>nd</sup> @ Second will meet in the library @ 10:15.\*\*\***

**\*\*\*The Session will meet Tuesday March 25 @ 7:00 p.m.\*\*\***

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## Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

March 23, 2025



*Seeking and Serving Christ. We are a Place for Growing Christians.*

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

## For The Hearing Impaired

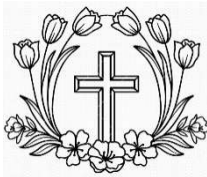
The service audio is being broadcast on 96.7-FM throughout the building and parking lot. Feel free to bring your pocket size radio, with headphones or earbuds, and listen to the service at an audio level that is more comfortable for you.

## Office Hours

The office hours for the week of March 23 will be Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. As always, please call the office before driving to the church as unforeseen circumstances can occur.



## Easter Flowers



We will decorate our sanctuary this year with Daffodils, Tulips and Hyacinth for the Easter Sunday service after which you are encouraged to take your flower(s) home. If you would like to place an order in honor or memory of someone, there are order forms in the gathering area. Flowers are in 8" pots with foil for \$10 each and **must be ordered** by March 30. Easter Sunday is April 20.



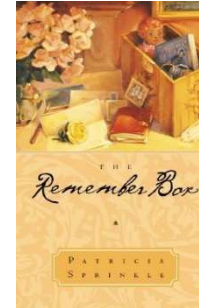
## March Mission is the Old Town Baby Pantry.

The pantry helps parents who need a hand with items for their new babies. We will have a crib set up in the hallway to accept any items that would be useful to new babies. Some suggested items include sleepers, onesies, outfits, snow suits/jackets (all size 0-9 months), crib sheets, receiving blankets, hooded towels, washcloths, bibs, bottles, newborn diapers, wipes, diaper bags, shampoo/baby powder, lotions, bassinets, pack-n-plays, highchairs, and bouncy seats. We will be collecting items through March 30.

## April Book Group

### The Remember Box by Patricia Sprinkle

*"After losing her mother to polio, eleven-year-old Carley Marshall comes to Job's Corner to make a new start, along with her Aunt Kate and Uncle Stephen Whitfield and her cousins Abby and John. The family is welcomed warmly by this small North Carolina community as Stephen takes up the post of pastor to Bethel Church, a Presbyterian congregation. But their welcome begins to wear thin and covert criticism runs rampant as Stephen challenges age-old beliefs and traditions."*



**TODAY** is the last day to request a book. Sonia will place a bulk book order on Monday, March 24, so please sign your name on the sheet in the gathering area if you'd like a book ordered for you. They are \$6.00 each. We will meet Sunday, April 27 @ 1:00 p.m. to discuss the book, enjoy some fellowship and treats. No need to sign up, just show up!

## Upcoming Music Recitals and Concerts

### Memorial Presbyterian Church Midland - Friday, March 28, 12:15pm

Performances by Thomas Heidenreich on the organ. The recital will be around 30 minutes long. It includes pieces by J. S. Bach, Robert Schumann, Louis Vierne, and Gerald Near.

### First Presbyterian Church – Saginaw - Sunday, March 30, 4:00pm

#### Stainer's Crucifixion: A Lenten Musical Meditation

Côr Ffrindiau (Welsh for Choir of Friends) - Michael Skutt, conductor

Thomas Heidenreich, organ

David Aukerman, tenor

David King, bass

John Stainer's traditional Victorian Passion setting combines the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death with introspective hymns. Led by Midland conductor Michael Skutt, Côr Ffrindiau (Choir of Friends), presents major sacred works with choir and organ.

**\*\*\*\*The Worship and Music Committee have reduced the stock of vases for the church. The excess is in the hallway by the Sunday school rooms. Please help yourself to any vase that you would like.\*\*\***

## Isaiah 55:1-7

**55** "Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.

<sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

<sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me;  
listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
a ruler and commander of the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not,  
and nations you do not know will come running to you,  
because of the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has endowed you with splendor."

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.

<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

## Luke 13:1-9

**13** Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

<sup>8</sup> "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"