

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 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 *Rockingham* Gerald Near

The Call to Worship

God gave Abraham and Sarah a covenant and made them into a nation.

But the people turned away and were not faithful to God.

God, however, continued to be faithful and loving. God promised and delivered to us a new covenant.

In Christ, our sins were forgiven and remembered no more!

The Lord is merciful and loving. He is worthy of our deepest praise.
Come, let us praise God!

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

*The Hymn of Praise *What Wondrous Love Is This* 85

*The Call to Confession

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. Trusting ourselves to the grace of God, let us confess our sins.

*The Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, your Son, Jesus Christ, longs to draw us all into the wide embrace of your love. We confess that we have been unfaithful. We have disobeyed your commands; our ears have been deaf to your call; our hearts have been cold to your love. In thought, in word, and in deed we have hurt others and dishonored your name. Forgive us. [Silent Confession.]

Lord, in your great mercy receive us yet again, not because we are worthy but for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us. It is in Jesus' precious name that we pray. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

God has said, "I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Through the death and resurrection of Jesus 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 *A Clean Heart* Benjamin Harlan
Chancel Choir

The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Old Testament Reading *Jeremiah 31:31-34* page 857 OT

The Gospel Reading *John 12:20-33* page 143 NT

The Sermon Pastor Ruth Estell

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith *The Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 37*

Question: What do you understand by the word "suffered"?

Answer: **That during his whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained in body and soul the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race. This he did in order that, by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice, he might deliver us, body and soul, from eternal condemnation, and gain for us God's grace, righteousness, and eternal life.**

*The Hymn *God of Grace and God of Glory – verses 1,2,5* 420

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 *Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639* J.S. Bach

*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 *Here I Am, Lord* 525

*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 *Aus tiefer Not Schrei ich zu dir* Christian Geist

* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

Liturgist : Peggy Donaldson

Ushers: Ted Easlick, Lenny Fowler, Scott Peters

Greeter: Betty Miller

Fellowship Hour: Cheryl Kelley

Musical Talents: Thomas Heidenreich, Director of Music Ministry and the Chancel Choir

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Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

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

Announcements and Upcoming Event

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



Thursday March 21 will be the last of the Lenten Bible Study. Please join us at 6:45 pm for a time of fellowship leading up to the Bible Study which will begin around 7:00 pm.

For the month of March, our mission focus will be the Old Town Baby Pantry.

The crib is set up in the Mission Corner to accept any items that would be useful to new babies. Some suggested items include sleepers, onesies, outfits, snowsuits/jackets (all size 0-12 months), crib sheets, receiving blankets, hooded towels, wash cloths bibs, bottles, newborn diapers, wipes, diaper bags, shampoo/baby wash, baby powder, lotions, bassinets, pack-n-plays, highchairs, bouncy seats. We will be collecting items through March 31st.



We need members to join our Green Team. Joining the team would mean mowing, trimming, blowing the grass off the sidewalks all using the equipment we have at the Church. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet in the gathering area or call the church office @ 792-1023.



Next Sunday, March 24, is Palm Sunday and 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.

Scholarship Information

Applications for the Muriel Lakey Scholarship and the Mary Ann Riggerink-Geiersbach Scholarship are available in the top bin on the cart by the office. Applications need to be turned in by April 14th.



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Palm Sunday – March 24 @ 9:00a.m. SPC
Maundy Thursday Service – March 28 @ 7:00p.m.
at First Presbyterian Church
Good Friday – March 29 @ 12:00p.m. & 12:30p.m. at
First United Methodist Saginaw
Easter Sunday – March 31 @ 9:00a.m. SPC

Prayer of Illumination

Loving God,
We thank you for the gift of your Word.
Prepare our hearts to hear your Spirit speak to us today.

Strengthen us to respond according to your will.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 NIV

³¹ "The days are coming," declares the LORD,
"when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

³² It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,"
declares the LORD.

³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time," declares the LORD.

"I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,"
declares the LORD.

"For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."

John 12:20-33 NIV

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up^a from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.