

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024

10:30 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Be still and know that I am God."
(Please use this time to prepare for worship in silence.)

Psalm 46:10

WORDS OF WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

PASSING THE PEACE *"...I was a stranger and you welcomed me."*

Matthew 25:35b

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

(The people may greet each other in the spirit of Christ.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

The dust that shapes the journey,
the cross that guides it,
the color that surrounds it,
the light that fades through it,
the word that foretells it,
the wilderness that invites it.

This is Lent, and into its wilderness God calls us.

Come, followers of Jesus, Christ is heading for Jerusalem.

OPENING PRAYER

God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; make our mouths speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies with the life and the actions of Christ within us. Allow us to worship you with heart, soul, mind and strength. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

THE LENTEN WREATH – THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

In this season of Lent we reflect on the meaning of our lives and on our journey of faith. The candles are burning now, but in the weeks to come the light will fade to darkness. For in retelling the story of Jesus' betrayal, suffering, and death, we find that God brings transformation and new possibility out of darkness. We walk with Christ to the cross, letting go of all that holds us back from new life. *(Silence)*

As we extinguish this light, we let go of our fear: fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of illness or death, fear of meaninglessness. *(A candle is extinguished.)*

Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, give us the courage to walk toward you, to step out in faith, and to let go of fear. Open our hearts so that we may love fully and allow ourselves to be fully loved. Amen.

*HYMN 165

"The Glory of These Forty Days"

ERHALT UNS, HERR

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

We pause here to examine our lives, our temptations, and the ways we have fallen short before our God. Let us confess our sins together.

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us. Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil in its many guises, and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. In covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety and new life. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

*KYRIE

**Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Remember and receive these hopeful words from John 8: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Receive God's truth and forgiveness. Receive God's grace. Live in the freedom God provides. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

(Page 35, *Glory to God Hymnal*)

SINGING WITH THE CHILDREN: "Jesus Loves Me"

(Hymn 188)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE HEBREW TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 9:8-17 (Unison)

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: I Peter 3:18-22
These words are trustworthy and true.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 1:9-15
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "What Prayer Alone Cannot Do"

THE RESPONSE

*HYMN 713 "Touch the Earth Lightly" TENDERNESS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (Unison) From *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 the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY "Communion" efevre

*DOXOLOGY/Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (Hymn 606- Traditional)
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.

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

THE SENDING

*HYMN 753 "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

*BENEDICTION

Go now, and live in the spirit of your baptism,
even when you are led into wild and hard places.
In quietness and trust, give yourselves to God.
With fasting and prayer, strengthen yourselves
against the ways of the tempter.

May God enfold you in tender and lasting love,
Christ be at your side in times of struggle,
And the Holy Spirit guide you back when you stray,
that you may keep God's sacred covenant.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

*All who are able, please stand.