

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



FIRST SUNDAY
in
LENT

February 26, 2023

1st Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

10:30 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

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

J.S.BACH
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

This is the season of Lent and we remember Jesus' journey to the wilderness and we follow him.

We follow with our minds the stories of scripture; we follow with our hearts the temptations put to Jesus understanding our own temptations; we follow with hands and feet through recommitment to justice and reconciliation; we follow with the wings of the Spirit in prayer and meditation.

May our minds be open, our hands be strong, our hearts be gentle and our spirits be devoted.

Let us follow Jesus through the wilderness, examining our temptations, resisting them and returning to God.

THE LENTEN WREATH—THE FIRST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Marty and Melissa Havlin

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, fear of 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

*PRAYER OF 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.

Gracious God, as we wander through this wilderness with Jesus, examining all the worldly comforts we turn to during times of stress and struggle, we

confess the neglect of our faith. We confess all that we place above you, making idols of money, earthly power, and even food. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our spiritual practices so we can leave this wilderness season more aware of your presence and the ways our faith can sustain us. Amen.

Silent Confession

*KYRIE

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

Remember and receive these hopeful words from John 8:32, "If you continue in my word, you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Receive God's truth. Receive God's grace. **We accept the freedom God provides and know we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

THE WORD

TIME WITH OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional) (Page 35, Glory to God Hymnal)

SINGING WITH THE CHILDREN: "Jesus Loves Me" (Hymn 188)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

THE HEBREW TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 (*The Common English Bible*)

The LORD God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. The LORD God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees; but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!"

The snake was the most intelligent of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. The snake said to the woman, "Did God really say that you shouldn't eat from any tree in the garden?"

The woman said to the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the garden's trees but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, 'Don't eat from it, and don't touch it, or you will die.'"

The snake said to the woman, "You won't die! God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 4:1-11

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Kin to Both"

THE RESPONSE

*HYMN 821

"My Life Flows On"

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(From Colossians 1:15-20; *The Common English Bible*)

**The Son is the image of the invisible God,
the one who is first over all creation,
Because all things were created by him:
both in the heavens and on the earth,
the things that are visible and the things that are invisible.
Whether they are thrones or powers,
or rulers or authorities,
all things were created through him and for him.
He existed before all things,
and all things are held together in him.
He is the head of the body, the church,
who is the beginning,
the one who is firstborn from among the dead
so that he might occupy the first place in everything.
Because all the fullness of God was pleased to live in him,
and he reconciled all things to himself through him—
whether things on earth or in the heavens.
He brought peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

OLIVET

*DOXOLOGY/Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (607)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

THE SENDING

*HYMN 547

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

AR HYD Y NOS

*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 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

*All who are able, please stand.