

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



February 25, 2024

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

10:30 A.M.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### **THE GATHERING**

PRELUDE

"Finlandia"

Sibelius

Dorothy Byers, Violinist

"Be still and know that I am God."

*Psalm 46:10*

(Please use this time to prepare for worship in silence.)

## 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

Let us not be ashamed of our Savior. Let us sing and praise our God out loud.

**In the midst of the crowd, we will praise you. In our community, we will bear witness to our faith.**

Let us set our minds on divine things.

**Let us take up our cross and follow Christ.**

OPENING PRAYER

THE LENTEN WREATH – LETTING GO OF CERTAINTY

We want control and certainty in our life. We want to know that we are on the right path, that we have the right answers, and that we worship the right God. We want to trust our own certainty. Lent is an invitation to acknowledge our illusions of certainty and to open ourselves to God's wonder-filled grace, mercy, and love. *(Silence)*

As we extinguish this light, we let go of our certainty for: the need for answers, faith without doubt, and the desire to be self-reliant. *(A candle is extinguished.)*

**Gracious God, we like to pretend that we have life figured out, that we don't need you, and that we can possess ultimate knowledge. Open our hearts to your gift of grace that enables us, in faith, to trust. Amen.**

\*HYMN 49

"The God of Abraham Praise"

LEONI

\*CONFESSION AND PRAYER

When we cry to God in prayer and confession, God hears. Let us approach God's throne of grace with confidence and faith. Let us pray:

**Savior God, the public spectacle of the cross calls us to account. We hesitate and hedge when opportunities arise to speak of you. We are shy in faith and not bold to proclaim. Your story saves, yet we keep it to ourselves. Forgive our reticence of faith. Forgive the ways we fail to serve as public witnesses. Help us be your candlelight, held high to set the world aglow. Amen.**

Silent Confession

\*KYRIE

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

God knows the hearts of those who seek forgiveness and by grace you have been saved. In Jesus' name you are forgiven and made whole. **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 17:1-7, 15-16

*Liturgist:* When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.'

*Men:* **God said to Abraham, 'As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.**

*Women:* **God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'** Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, 'Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?' And Abraham said to God, 'O that Ishmael might live in your sight!' God said, 'No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.'

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READING: Romans 4:13-25

These words are trustworthy and true.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

JS Bach

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 8:31-38

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

"The Identity We Receive in Baptism"

### ***THE RESPONSE***

\*HYMN 475

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (Unison) From *Belonging to God: A First Catechism; PC(USA)*

**Jesus called disciples to follow him. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, blessed children, befriended outcasts, required people to repent, and forgave their sins. He taught people not to fear but to trust always in God. He preached the good news of God's love and gave everyone hope for new life. As a result of his life and death and resurrection, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are the church. We are people who believe the good news about Jesus, who are baptized, and who share in the Lord's Supper. Through these means of grace, the Spirit renews us so that we may serve God in love. Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

arr. Raney

\*DOXOLOGY/Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (606)

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 819

"Be Still, My Soul"

FINLANDIA

\*BENEDICTION

**As God's beloved people and in the name of Christ,  
we will continue to observe a holy Lent:  
by self-examination and penitence,  
by prayer and fasting,  
by works of love,  
and meditating on God's Word.**

May the grace, hope, love and peace of God,  
our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer  
be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

\*POSTLUDE

"Ode to Joy"

arr. Line