

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" arr. Marianne Kim

Call to Worship

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

All the families of the nations shall worship before God.

For dominion belongs to the Lord,

and God rules over the nations.

Hymn 49 The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I am, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

2 Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

3 Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

4 You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken,
we confess that we fail to fulfill your will.**

**Though you have bound yourself to us,
we will not bind ourselves to you.**

**In Jesus Christ you serve us freely,
but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others.**

**We do not love you fully or love one another as you command.
In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us.**

**Restore us to you and one another,
and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life
and the vine from which we grow in grace.**

Silent Confession

Kyrie 575

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

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

A Time with Our Children: "The Tale of the Three Trees," part two
Chapel and Alleluia Choirs

Long/Pote

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 17:1-16

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." 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. You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. Throughout your

generations every male among you shall be circumcised when he is eight days old, including the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring. Both the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money must be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

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.”

Sermon: "Do What?"

Rev. Carter

Lenten Series: Covenants in Sky, Stone, Flesh, and Wine

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 52

"To Abraham and Sarah"

- 1 To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear:
“Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey, for I have pledged my word
that you shall be my people and I will be your God.”
- 2 From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,
dependent for their journey on God’s abundant grace;
and in their heart was written by God this saving word,
“That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”
- 3 We of this generation on whom God’s hand is laid
can journey to the future secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God’s goodness and trusting in this word,
“That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”

Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

***Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,***

***we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.***

In everlasting love,

***the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.***

Hearing their cry,

God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still,

God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

***Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,***

God is faithful still.

A Minute for One Great Hour of Sharing

Diane Scheuer

Offering

Offertory

“Deep River”

arr. Marianne Kim

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 489

"Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed"

- 1 Wonder of wonders, here revealed: God's covenant with us is sealed,
and long before we know or pray, God's love enfolds us every day.
- 2 Here in this sacrament we see God's grace unbound, for all, for me!
May we respond with joyful praise in loving service all our days.
- 3 This child of God, though young or old, we welcome now into Christ's fold,
to know with us God's loving care, and all our joys and sorrows share.
- 4 Now we our vow of faith renew, stretch wide our sights to global view,
and claim with Christians far and near a larger family held dear.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Hymn for Lent"

Dale Wood

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children And Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Liturgist	JoAnn Hall
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Three Trees Players	Candy and Heather Lyons

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Church Family Announcements

Thank you for joining us for our 10:00 Virtual Worship Service.

We're happy you tuned in, hope that you will find our time together enriching, and look forward to the day we can worship together once again.

Lenten Activity Bags have been prepared by members of our Christian Education Committee to help us explore the meaning of Lent even as we *remain* apart. They contain devotions, activity and reflection suggestions, and more. There are versions available for both families with children and for those without. Please take a bag for your family. The bags are available in the hall by Jana Schillinger's office.

The March/April Upper Room devotional booklets have arrived. You are welcome to stop by the church office to get one. Call first if we get more snow.

CAMP LACKAWANNA INFORMATION

Summer Camp 2021 Registration is open! Head on over to camp.lackawanna.org to see what programs are being offered this summer and to register your children for camp! Family Camp registration is also open!

Our church provides scholarships for all young people who want to go. Check with Jana Schillinger for details.

DATES	CAMP	AGE GROUP
June 24-27	Family Camp	All Ages
June 28-30	Mini Camp	Ages 6-10
July 4-10	Wet n' Wild	Ages 7-16
July 11-17	Music, Arts and Drama	Ages 7-16
July 11-24	JH/SR 2-week	Completed grades 6-11
July 18-24	Adventure Camp	Completed grades 6-10
July 25-31	Night Owls	Completed grades 3-10
August 1-7	Camp Olympics	Ages 7-16

Camp Lackawanna is actively seeking staff for Summer Camp. In addition to Counselors, a Cook is also needed. Applications can be filled out at www.camlackawanna.org

Have you had your shots?

A growing number of folks in our church family have received their vaccinations for covid-19. Bravo!

If you have received both shots and wish to return to the sanctuary for worship, we cordially invite you to contact our office and make a reservation. Because the corona virus continues to be contagious, we ask all who attend to wear masks, keep appropriate distances, and refrain from singing.

We look forward to the day when ALL of us can be back together. That day is coming. In the meantime, we will respect one another and do what is safe for all.

Study with us during Lent

Rev. Carter is leading a Bible study at 10 a.m. on the Wednesday mornings of Lent, the next date being March 3. It will be held live on Zoom, with a small group meeting simultaneously in Room 206 (Session Room). Would you like to be physically present? Contact the church office (586-6306) to make a reservation. Masks and safety rules apply!

The study will be "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament," which is the PW/Horizons study for this year.

We have ordered a small number of study books, which are available from the church office for \$10.

Our building is bustling -- one person at a time! Feel free to read a book or check out a DVD from our church library, pray or play the piano in the sanctuary, or have a free cup of coffee with the pastor (who will keep six feet away). No groups, please, but Masked Individuals are welcome in limited numbers whenever the building is open. [Stir-Crazy People](#) are especially invited.



Jazz Concert goes online, March 21

Join us for a third online concert, broadcast live from our sanctuary and offered as a gift to the community. Links will be on our website and Facebook page. You can also go to www.YouTube.com and search for **FPCS Arts**.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit offers electronic Giving as a way to support the church on a regular or one-time basis. You can go to fpccs.org or scan the QR code (at right) anytime to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Why not give it a try today?

