

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2014

10:00 a.m.

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Hymn  
Concerns of the Church  
Prelude

Call to Worship from Psalm 121

From where will our help come?

***Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.***

Who is our keeper?

***The Lord is our keeper, by day and by night.***

\* Hymn 450 "Be Thou My Vision"  
*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

***Gracious God,  
we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace.  
You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not.  
We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead.  
We justify our actions and words,  
though we know they are not what you require.  
We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers,  
preferring old habits to risky change.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Help us to be born again into the life of Christ,  
trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith.  
In Christ's name we pray.***

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

\* Response (71)

***Surely it is God who saves me, I will trust and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and God will be my Savior.***

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination  
First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4 (OT, p. 10)  
Psalter: Psalm 121 (OT, p. 571)

A Time with Children

Anthem "Blessed Be the Lord" Timothy Shaw  
Tom Heinz, Oboe, Lizzie Worrell, Accompanist

Second Lesson: John 3:1-17 (NT, p. 93)  
Sermon for the Lord's Day

Dr. Smith

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* Hymn 286 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"  
\* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (p. 35)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (p. 35)

Minute for One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering

Offertory "Witness" arr. Bolks and Halloran

\* Doxology (606)

\* Prayer of Dedication

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

\* Hymn 702 "Christ Be Beside Me"

- \* Charge and Benediction
- \* Postlude

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\* All who are able shall stand.

**The flowers** this morning have been given by Jean and Dave Comly to the glory of God and in memory of their parents.

**The welcomers** this morning are Mollie Woehling, Wendy, Ron, Riley and Jacob Wescott and Bill Keen.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor	William Carter
Directory of Educational Ministries	Tina Ide
Director of Music	Susan Kelly
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Members of the Chapel Choir
Ushers	John Conklin, Carole LaCoe, Shirley McLaughlin, Brian Schillinger



*We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.*



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### ***Genesis 12:1-4***

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

### ***Psalms 121***

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

### ***John 3:1-17***

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.