

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
3rd Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2016

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music
Concerns of the Church

Prelude "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" arr. J. Kimball
Call to Worship

Everyone who thirsts:

Come to the waters, seek the Lord!

All who are hungry for righteousness:

Come to the waters, seek the Lord!

All who are weary and in need of help:

Come to the waters, seek the Lord!

All who are weary and in need of help:

Come to the waters, seek the Lord!

* Hymn 479 "Ho, All Who Thirst"
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you set before us a rich feast of blessing,

but we are drawn to things that cannot satisfy.

You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world,

but we indulge our own desires.

Your ways are not our ways; our thoughts are not your thoughts.

Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives.

Quicken our desire for a more fruitful life.

Be patient, we pray, as we change what we are,

in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be.

We ask this in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession

* Response: "Lord, Have Mercy" (Hymnal 579)

1) Lord, have mercy 2) Christ, have mercy 3) Lord, have mercy

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

During Lent, we will refrain from singing alleluias.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-9 (OT, p. 685)

Psalter: Psalm 63 (OT, p. 527)

A Time with Children

Anthem

"Come to the Water"

Foley

Second Lesson: Luke 13:1-9 (NT, p. 76)

Sermon: "Why? Why Not? What Now?"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 442 "Just As I Am, Without One Plea"

* Affirmation of Faith: A Brief Statement, sections 1 and 3 (Hymnal, p. 37)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

A Minute for One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering

Offertory

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

arr. John Carter

* Doxology

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 418

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" arr. Robert Hobby

*During Lent, we invite you to remain seated until the Postlude is complete,
as a way to meditate upon the meaning of the season.*

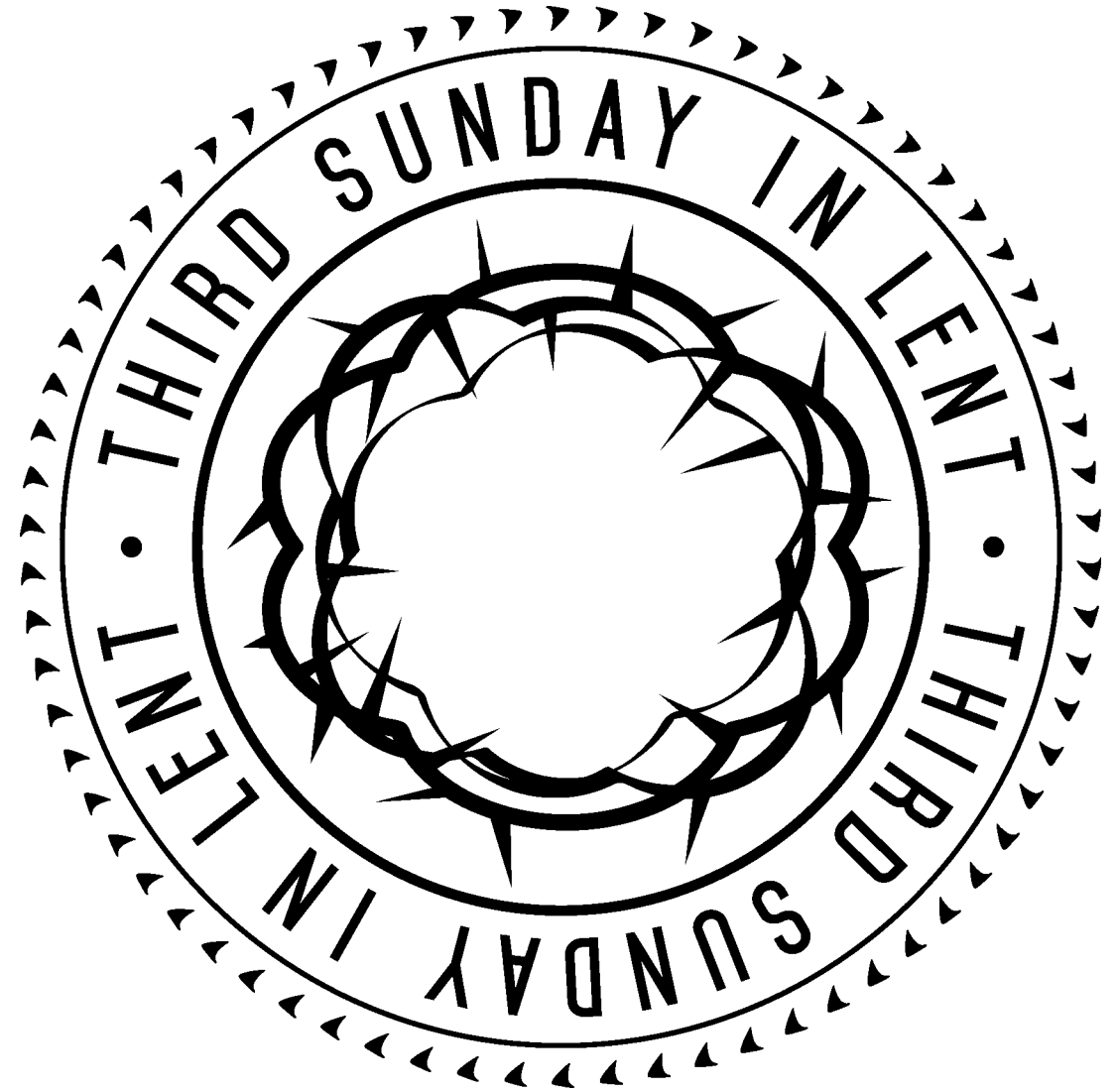
* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers this morning have been given to the glory of God in loving memory of Isaac (Ike) Sponaugle by his family.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	William Carter
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Adrienne Horger
Ushers	Mary Parry, Valerie Treadway
Welcomers	John and Myrna Diven

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Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalms 63

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals.

But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"