

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
Second Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2017

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music
Concerns of the Church
Prelude

"God So Loved the World"
Alleluia Choir

arr. Horman

Call to Worship

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 49 "The God of Abraham Praise"

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

* Response: "O Lord, Have Mercy" (Hymnal 578)

***O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy;
O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on me.
O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy;
O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on me.***

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

During Lent, we will refrain from singing alleluias.

Anthem

"For Things That I Do Wrong"
Chapel Choir

Bedford

Reception of New Members

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: John 3:1-17 (NT p. 93)

Psalter: Psalm 121 (Hymnal 45)

A Time with Children

Anthem

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Wagner

Second Lesson: Genesis 12:1-9 (OT p. 10)

Sermon: "All God's Children Have Traveling Shoes"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 775 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

A Minute for One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering

Offertory

"If You but Trust in God to Guide You"

arr. Kimball

- * Doxology (606)
- * Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * Hymn 748 "Go with Us, Lord"
We will sing the song as a round, as directed.
- * Charge and Benediction
- * Congregational Amen (Hymnal 601)
- * Postlude "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" arr. Schalk
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 are given by Susan and Bill Fulton to the Glory of God and in honor of their daughter, Sarah, on the occasion of her 23rd birthday.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Director of Chapel and Alleluia Choirs	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Members of the Chapel Choir
Ushers	Anne Rich, Anne Deremer
Welcomer	John Conklin



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.



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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.

Genesis 12:1-9

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. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.