

First Presbyterian Church

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

March 3, 2013

9:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "If You But Trust In God to Guide You" arr. Kimball

Call to Worship from Isaiah 55

Seek the Lord while he may be found.

Call upon the Lord while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts;

**Let them return to the Lord who will have mercy on them,
to our God who will abundantly pardon.**

* Hymn 356 (PH) "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
we confess we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be your obedient people.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love.
We have not loved our neighbors,
and refused to hear the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

* Silent Confession

* Lenten Kyrie (Sing 53) **Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

* Assurance of Pardon

* Passing of the Peace

* Response (Sing 74)

**Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in him 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

Psalter: Psalm 63:1-8 (OT, p. 527)

Refrain: **My soul thirsts for God, the living God.
My soul thirsts for God, the living God.**

A Time with Children

Anthem

"We Would Serve the Lord"

Pederson

Epistle Lesson: Galatians 3:1-29 (NT, p. 188)

Sermon: "Something More Than Rules"

Rev. Carter

Sermon Series: Galatians for Lent

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 358 (PH) "Help Us Accept Each Other" (to PH 447)

* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (PH, p. 14)

Minute for Mission and Offering

Offertory "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" arr. Kimball

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving (PH, p. 13) and the Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

*Please hold the bread until all are served, so that we might share it as a sign
of our unity in Christ. As a sign of individual devotion and commitment, you
may drink the cup as you are served.*

* Prayer after Communion

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 341 (PH) "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "We Place Upon Your Table, Lord" arr. Powell

* All who are able shall stand.

PH Presbyterian Hymnal

Sing Sing! A New Creation (green songbook)

The flowers this morning have been given by the Stephen Ministers with the love of Christ for those who have suffered loss.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor
Director of Music
Organist
Liturgist

William G. Carter
Susan Kelly
Kay Ten Eyck
Linda Frangos

First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570/586-6306
www.fpccs.org



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.


THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
9:00 AM

Psalm 63

Comfort and Assurance in God's Presence

A Psalm of David, when he was in the Wilderness of Judah.

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.

Galatians 3:1-29

Law or Faith

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing. Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

Just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness’, so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All

the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.’ For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed.

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.’ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for ‘The one who is righteous will live by faith.’ But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, ‘Whoever does the works of the law will live by them.’ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The Promise to Abraham

Brothers and sisters, I give an example from daily life: once a person’s will has been ratified, no one adds to it or annuls it. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring; it does not say, ‘And to offsprings’, as of many; but it says, ‘And to your offspring’, that is, to one person, who is Christ. My point is this: the law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. For if the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from the promise; but God granted it to Abraham through the promise.

The Purpose of the Law

Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained through angels by a mediator. Now a mediator involves more than one party; but God is one.

Is the law then opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law. But the scripture has imprisoned all things under the power of sin, so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.