



Second Sunday
in Lent
February 25, 2024
10:30 a.m. Worship

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.

--*Genesis 17:7*

First Presbyterian Church

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www.fpcsb.net

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN W. SMITH

MINISTRY OF VISITATION: LAURIE STAFFORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST;

AMY GANO, BELLS

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being livestreamed and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice w/those who rejoice, weep w/those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are welcome in worship. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, March 3rd.
Our deacons will set the table so all may be made welcome.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Brooke Dvorak

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

Names are the way we humans build relationship, not only with each other but with the living world. I'm trying to imagine what it would be like going through life not knowing the names of the plants and animals around you.

Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Prelude in F minor* *J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*
Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

INVITATION to LENT

INTROIT *I bring my heart to Thee*¹ *David H. Williams*
I bring my heart to Thee Thou Lamb of Calvary. Hear Thou my prayer to thee, O living God. Amen.

*RESPONSE 286

✠ **Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

*CALL to WORSHIP

Lent calls us to search our hearts and seek God;

✠ **Let us seek God and worship together.**

***HYMN 760** *Bring Many Names* WESTCHASE

PRAYER of CONFESSION

We hear the words from Jesus:

“Take up your cross and follow me.”

These words scare us. We know what taking up a cross meant for him. We do not feel able to sacrifice our lives. We are not even ready

† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

*** Stand if you are able ✠ The congregation will read.**

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on most days to sacrifice smaller things for the sake of the Kingdom.

- ✘ Today O God we confess our timidity,
our weaknesses,
our fears,
and our hesitations.

As we gather today— as we look at the cross in front of us, as we remember the crosses that marked our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, such a short time ago, to begin the Lenten journey, as we think of the Cross that Lent calls us to journey towards may we find strength in new places deep within our souls.

- ✘ May we find courage, hope, and the peace
to really follow Jesus.
May worship today help us
to begin the Lenten journey
towards finding our crosses
and figuring out how to bear them.

(Silence)

- ✘ Hear our prayers,
remind us of the grace that covers our sin
and offers us the endurance
to the run the race of faith.
Amen and Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel

- ✘ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.

*TE DEUM

You Are God²

Marty Haugen

You are God: we praise you. You are Lord: we ac-claim you. You are
Fa-ther e-ter-nal: all cre-a-tion wor-ships you.

TIME with the CHILDREN

*[Children are always welcome in worship. After the Time with Children, we invite our children ages 4 to 11 to go to KidSpace in Room 11. Parents, please pick your children up immediately following worship.
Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]*

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Old Testament, pg. 13

Mark 8:31-37

New Testament, pg. 44

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Covenant and Cross

Pastor Wendy Lamb

ANTHEM

*Be Thou My Vision*³

Jeffrey H Rickard

Be thou my Vision, O lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that thou art; Thou my best thought by day or by night. Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my Wisdom and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father; thine own may I be; Thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise; Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art. High King of heaven, my victory won; May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all. O still be my Vision, O Ruler, O Ruler of all.

THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We offer our gifts as a response to God's Word, to be part of God's purposes in the world. You may place gifts in the plate during the offertory, or on your way out – or by mail or online.)

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

✠ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost, Amen.**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and OUR 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.**

³ Text: Irish, c. 700 AD; trans. Mary E. Byrne; vers. Eleanor H. Hull. Music: Jeffery H. Rickard.

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE

Paul Sjolund

Jesus our only Joy be Thou, As Thou our prize wilt be; In Thee be all our glory now, And through eternity.

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

W. Zeitler

(For health reasons we are not greeting at the door)

GREETERS: Jeanne Clark, Robin Edwards

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Chris Thomas, John-Paul Fletcher, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Judy Steppins, Ann Aguilera, George Biddlecombe

Elders: Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough

Deacons: Chris Wright-Thomas, Kristine French, Joyce Lyons

This Weeks' Celebrations

Feb 26 Christa Wallis

Mar 2 Kristine French

Lynda Savage

Kurt Star

Lenten Quiet Nights will continue each Thursday through March 21st. Come at 5:30 p.m. to the Fireside Lounge for a quiet, contemplative service, followed by a simple supper of soup and bread. The service includes space for silence, and the supper is an opportunity for fellowship. Please join us.

Leonard Scholarship applications for Fall 2024 are available in the Church office and on the church website. **All applications must be received in the church office no later than this Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024.** Any questions can be emailed to Lynda Savage at Lksavage3@gmail.com

More News and announcements are available in your Friday *Keeping in Touch* emails. If you are not receiving these, and you would like to, contact Mimi in the church office.

Music Box

This week's Gospel contains the enigmatic and impossible "Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake and the gospel's sake will save it." (Mark 8:35)

Like "Zen masters" everywhere, Jesus is superb at blowing up our thinking with impossible sayings. The proverbial whack with a two-by-four. This is a passage where I think the Greek is especially helpful. At least it has been to me. Mind you, I'm not interested — mostly because I don't think it's possible — to reduce a saying like this to One Meaning. But if I can open the aperture of the imagination a little, I think that's the best that can be hoped for. After all, I don't think the Spiritual Path is about having the right concepts in your head anyway!

First of all, the word translated here as 'life' is PSYCHĒ — yes, the same one that is frequently translated 'soul'. What could it possibly mean to 'lose your soul'?

But wait, it gets worse. The Greek word for "save" is more or less like our English word, but "lose" is APOLLUMI: "to destroy, to ruin, lose." Sure, "lose" works, but it's more than just casually losing something — "drat, I lost my car keys." No, it's much more forceful than that — more like deliberately throwing something away.

So we're left with something like "whoever throws away his soul for my sake..." What?!?!?

Let's consider the word 'soul', which in English has an enormous set of connotations that only partially overlap with the enormous set of connotations of PSYCHĒ in Ancient Greek. On top of that, the Jews had their own ideas about 'soul' (NEPHESH). So it's not easy to pin down precisely what Jesus has in mind here.

But as I've studied and meditated on the word PSYCHĒ as it's used in the Bible (the Greek New Testament and the Septuagint — the translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek done around 300 BCE), to me there seems to be a common element. Namely, 'consciousness.' For example, in these sources, animals have PSYCHĒs but plants do not.

Meanwhile, Paul says "Now the soulish person is not receiving those things which are of the spirit..." (I Cor 2:14). The word 'soulish' here is PSYCHIKOS, sometimes translated as 'the natural person' or such like, but it's the adjective form of PSYCHĒ. In other words, methinks

that if one is too self-obsessed, then one is being 'soulish' in a negative sense. Too much of a good thing, so to speak.

With that in mind, I wonder if Jesus means something like: we have to throw away our self-obsession. That if we 'soulishly' cling to our self-importance, we'll destroy/lose our souls. But if we throw away our self-importance, for Jesus' and the gospel's sake, then we'll be OK.

That certainly aligns with His other teachings.

Just my two cents, for what it's worth!

P.S. Last week's prelude was a wild volcano of a prelude — just the thing for Lent 1. So, to clear the palette, this morning's piece is quiet, reflective and poignant. The many moods of Lent! --*William Zeitler*



The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. Its power depends on both its simplicity and complexity, as well as its traditional and enduring qualities.

The basic symbols in the seal are the cross, Scripture, the dove, and flames.

As a church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), our congregational life is governed by the Ruling Elders of our current Session:

Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak, Pat Morris, Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis,
and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Rebecca Allen, Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda

In this time of change for our congregation, a Mission Assessment Plan will be completed by our Mission Assessment Team:

Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher, Nancy Horstmann,
Marilyn Kraft, Jim Morris, Brent Nord, Irene Sandoval Suverkrup