

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of MASON CITY, IOWA

February 21, 2021

First Sunday of Lent

## WELCOME

## INTROIT

*Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed;  
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see  
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

In this season of Lent—  
God calls us to leave our comfortable lives,  
and to journey into the wilderness.  
In this season of discipleship—  
God calls us to follow Jesus,  
wherever he may go, wherever he may lead.

## HYMN “O God, Who Gives Us Life”

O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us from the womb,  
Who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
Deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,  
To plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:  
When we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,  
Refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,  
Your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.  
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,  
As on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be,  
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

## KYRIE

*Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Who is in a position to condemn?  
Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,  
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.  
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.  
Know that you are forgiven, that today your new life begins, and be at peace.  
Thanks be to God.

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### PSALTER Psalm 25: 1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you;  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.  
Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.  
Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.  
Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.  
Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.  
Gracious and upright are you, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.  
You guide the humble in doing right  
and teach your way to the lowly.  
All your paths, O LORD, are love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

### GOSPEL READING Mark 1: 9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

### SERMON

#### HYMN "Faith Begins By Letting Go"

Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,  
Taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure:  
Pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's roots alive  
So that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed our souls will thrive,  
Not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts.  
Sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts;  
Till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.

### PRAYERS

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.

**OFFERING**

**BLESSING**

**RESPONSE**

God be with you till we meet again, God be in you, go in peace.  
Loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you.  
God be with you till we meet again, God be in you, go in peace.

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**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Camille Lee, piano; Dennis Lee, vocals  
Sarah Kress, reader  
The Rev. Paul Collier, pastor  
Nate Ruge, reader, video recorder & editor

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

Text: Shirley Erena Murray ©1990 Hope Publishing Co..

Music: BEACH SPRING *The Sacred Harp*, 1844

"O God, Who Gives Us Life"

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. ©1990 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: NOEL English melody, arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1874

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Text: Traditional liturgical text

Music: KYRIE ELEISON J. Christopher Pardini

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"Faith Begins By Letting God"

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. ©1996 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: LUX PRIMA Charles F. Gounod, 1872

God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

Music: Based on BEACH SPRING, arr. Dale Woods ©1996 The Sacred Music Press

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