



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
February 26, 2023

The First Sunday in Lent

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

A Lenten Prelude
Ah, Holy Jesus (Hymn 93)
My Song is Love Unknown (Hymn 76)

Callahan
Susan Charlton, flute

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

After he was baptized by John, Jesus went by himself to the wilderness.

Forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted.

Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent.

And we face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.

Let us seek Christ as our companion along the way.

Let us worship God and walk the journey together.

Let us welcome the Spirit to prepare our hearts for Easter's coming. Amen.

*HYMN 81 (V.1-4)

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins,
And close by Thee to stay.

As Thou with Satan didst contend,
And didst the victory win,
O give us strength in Thee to fight,
In Thee to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence,
And through Thy Passiontide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering overpast,
An Easter of unending Joy
We may attain at last!

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sheltering and Guiding God, as you were present with Jesus in his wilderness experience, so you are present with us. You urge us to trust you. But we have felt abandoned and even betrayed by you, when things have not gone well with us. Instead of following where you lead, O God, we follow a tempter who shows us a counterfeit vision of the world, not the whole and abundant world you desire for us. We want an easy path forward, even if it is not your will. At times, O God, we are deceived and enticed by imitations of love, abundance and joy. O God, when you have not answered our prayers in the ways we desire, we have been tempted to lean on our own understanding. We so often have sought to order our own steps, often ignoring your wisdom and pushing your guidance aside.

**Lord, have mercy.
Help us to trust you to journey with us and to guide us.
Help us to rest in your promise to never leave us or forsake us.**

Silent Prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Apostle Paul declared our hope, asking the question: "Who is in a position to condemn?" The answer? "Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us." Trust this Good News. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 32:1-7

Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Refrain

*And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.*

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, "My Refuge,
My Rock in Whom I trust."

Refrain

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.

Refrain

You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day,
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come.

Refrain

For to His angels He's given a command,
To guard you in all of your ways,
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

*Refrain***WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has given us so many gifts in Christ and in creation. We offer our gifts in gratitude for the possibilities we enjoy, trusting God to multiply what we bring for goodness' sake.

Please leave your offering in the box at the front of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord God, we offer our gifts in thanksgiving for all the goodness you provide. Bless our gives and our lives so that we become a source of goodness for others, in the name of Christ, our strength and our hope. Amen.

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 85 (V.1-3)

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!

*BENEDICTION

As we begin our journey through the season of Lent, remember the words of the prophet Micah:
What does the Lord require of us? To do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.

May God's loving kindness comfort you, God's justice inspire you, and Jesus walk beside you in humility and hope.

POSTLUDE

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (Hymn 81)

Willan

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Peter Becker, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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Each Sunday we sing hymns taken from the blue hymnal provided for you in the pew where you are seated. Though we print the lyrics to the hymns in the bulletin, we encourage you to turn to the hymnal so you can also read the accompanying music.

Psalm 32:1-7

How blessed are those whose offense is forgiven, those whose sin is covered!

How blessed those to whom Adonai imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no deceit!

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away because of my groaning all day long;
day and night your hand was heavy on me; the sap in me dried up as in a summer drought.

When I acknowledged my sin to you, when I stopped concealing my guilt,
and said, "I will confess my offenses to Adonai"; then you, you forgave the guilt of my sin.

This is what everyone faithful should pray at a time when you can be found.
Then, when the floodwaters are raging, they will not reach him.

You are a hiding-place for me, you will keep me from distress;
you will surround me with songs of deliverance.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.