

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**Second Sunday of Lent**

**March 5, 2023**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Meditation before Worship**

*God our helper, our shade, our protector, you are able to give life to the dead, to call into being things that do not exist. We trust in your power to make all things new; to keep us in sunlight and moonlight, along rocky paths and pathways unknown; until all our going and coming brings us at last to your kingdom promised in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **The Gathering of God's People**

#### **Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship**

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Minute for Mission**

Sisters of the Lord

Joyce Lloyd

#### **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

**People: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

**People: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Leader: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**People: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

**\*Hymn**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

#12

**The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

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 that 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. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**\*Response**

“Lord, Have Mercy”

#551

**Ministry of the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Children’s Sermon**

**First Scripture Reading**

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

**Choir Anthem** “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” Arwel Hughes, 1938

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.  
Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball  
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all. Amen.

**Second Scripture Reading**

John 3:1-2

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**The Response to the Word****\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Invitation to Offering****\*Response**

“We Lift Our Voices”

#710

**\*Prayer of Dedication****The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pew to the center aisle and return to your pew from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to bring communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

## **\*Invitation to the Lord's Table**

Pastor: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; let those who have no money come and eat.

**People: God will satisfy our souls with a rich feast, and we will bless the Lord as long as we live.**

Pastor: This is not a Presbyterian table; this is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites all those who trust in him to share the feast that he has prepared.

**\*Hymn of Invitation**      "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!"      #506

## **The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly right and ... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Leader: You are holy ... Great is the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Leader: Gracious God ... in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

## **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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

# Communion of the People

## Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, as you fed your people in the wilderness with unexpected food, so you feed us at this table with a simple loaf and cup. Here you transform us, by the working of your wondrous love. Now send us out to be Christ's body in your broken and beautiful world to bear your good news of hope and joy for all. Amen.

## The Sending of God's People

\***Closing Hymn** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

#435

\***Charge and Blessing**

\***Congregational Response**

"We Are the Church"



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!



All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!

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\***Postlude**

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

arr. Gordon Young

**Pastors:** Dr. Mark A. Johnson  
Steve Watters

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd

**Organist:** Carol Welk

**Liturgist:** Carole Sue Ames

**Acolyte:** Devin Griggs, Darren Cox

Carole Sue Ames is a lifelong resident of this area. She grew up in Lafayette and attended the Methodist Church. When she moved into London at the age of 15, she began to attend the First Presbyterian Church when it was located on Walnut Street. That was about 1952. She loves her church family dearly and following the path that God has laid out for her.

Carole married Bill Ames in 1956, and they had 5 sons. They enjoyed being involved with their children in school and sports. Bill & Carol have 18 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren with another one on the way. Bill went to be with the Lord in 1998.

Carole enjoyed tennis and softball in her younger years. Today, she enjoys swimming and golfing. She loves to travel whenever possible, and has been active in our church choir since 1970.