

# The First Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2019



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America*

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**-FOR YOUR REFLECTION-**

“The devil is but a whetstone to sharpen the faith and patience of the saints.”

—Samuel Rutherford

“Faith is a living and unshakable confidence, a belief in the grace of God so assured that a man would die a thousand deaths for its sake.”

—Martin Luther

“Faith isn’t the ability to believe long and far into the misty future. It’s simply taking God at His Word and taking the next step.”

—Joni Eareckson Tada

“Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens.”

—J.R.R. Tolkien

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

—Hebrews 11.1

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.”

—Hebrews 11.8-10

## **-DRAWING NEAR TO GOD-**

### **Welcome and Silent Prayer**

O GOD, the protector of all who trust in thee,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy;  
increase and multiply upon us thy mercy;  
that, thou being our ruler and guide,  
we may so pass through things temporal,  
that we finally lose not the things eternal.  
Grant this, O heavenly Father,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—From *The Book of Common Prayer*

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

Psalm 34.1-3

### **\*Prayer of Adoration**

### **\*Song of Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 26*

*TELL OUT, MY SOUL, THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD*

## **-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-**

### **Confession of Sin**

Merciful God, we humble ourselves in your presence, confessing our unworthiness and sinfulness in your sight. We have broken your holy law. We have not sought first your kingdom and righteousness. We have been anxious and troubled about many things, and have often neglected the things that belong to our peace. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, or done to others as we would have them do to us. Most gracious Father, who has given your Son, Jesus Christ, to save your people from their sins; forgive us, we pray; cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and renew a right spirit within us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Isaiah 1.18

### **\*Song of Praise to Christ**

*Hymn No. 310*

*REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING*

### **\*Confession of Faith**

What does God require in the fourth and fifth commandments?

**Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in public and private worship of God, rest from routine employment, serve the Lord and others, and so anticipate the eternal Sabbath. Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother, submitting to their godly discipline and direction.<sup>1</sup>**

—The New City Catechism, No. 10

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<sup>1</sup> “Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God” (Lev 19.3).

## **Celebration of Baptism**

**Communicant**

Rogue Scout Leah McBean

**Covenant Child**

Sayer Rebel Sean McBean

Explanation and Exhortation

Acts 2.39; Genesis 17.7; Acts 16.31

Covenant Vows

1. Do you acknowledge Sayer's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate Sayer to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?
4. To the Congregation: Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting John and Christina in the Christian nurture of this child?

Baptism and Prayer of Dedication

## **Reception of New Members**

John and Christina McBean

### Membership Vows

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to strive for its purity and peace?

### Prayer

## **Prayer for the Church and the World**

**-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-**

**Scripture Lesson**

Luke 8.40-56

**Sermon**

“Faith and Crisis”  
Mr. Ronnie Curfman, Pastoral Intern

**\*Song of Response**

*Hymn No. 528*

*MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE*

**Worship of God with Tithes and Offerings**

*\*DOXOLOGY*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Words Thomas Ken, 1709; music Genevan Psalter, 1551; Public Domain

## **-OBSERVING THE SACRAMENT-**

### **The Lord's Supper**

We celebrate the Lord's Supper by coming forward and partaking of the bread and the cup. Wine is served in the inner ring of each tray; grape juice in the outer ring. We warmly invite to the Table all baptized Christians, who are living under the authority of Christ and his Church. By eating the bread and drinking of the cup, you are admitting that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Christ alone for salvation. If this does not describe you, we are glad you are here and commend to you the following prayers for your use during this time.

#### *A Prayer for those Searching for the Truth*

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life you promise. Amen.

#### *A Prayer of Belief*

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### *A Prayer for those Struggling with Sin*

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need and may turn from every false pleasure to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

# \*Song of Thanksgiving

## In Christ Alone

words and music Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
CCLI# 2415226



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my  
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less  
3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the world by dark - ness  
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in



song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground, firm through the  
Babe! This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the  
slain; then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious day, up from the  
me; from life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com -



fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of  
ones He came to save. 'Til on the cross as Je - sus  
grave He rose a - gain! And as He stands in vic - to -  
mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of



peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease. My com - fort -  
died, the wrath of God was sat - is - fied. For ev - 'ry  
ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; for I am  
man, can ev - er pluck me from His hand; 'til he re -



er, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.  
sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.  
His and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

### **\*Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

### **Postlude and Silent Prayer**

Heavenly Father, who has prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love and thirst for you that we, loving you and seeking you above all things, may obtain your promises, which far exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

\*Please stand if able.

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### **Our Nursery Helpers**

Worship

*Today:* Nicole Miller

*Next Week:* Samantha Schroeder

### **Gatherings**

*A Children's Catechism Class*, taught by Pastor Ron and Pastoral Intern Ronnie Curfman, meets twice a month (generally the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, during the school year), from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, at the church.

*The Martin Home Fellowship Group* led by Eric Carpenter and Ronnie Curfman, meets at Kathy Martin's (213 Chapra St), the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. They are studying the Gospel of Luke and all are welcome.

*The Men's Group* meets Wednesdays, from 6:00 to 7:30 AM in the chapel, for Bible study, fellowship and prayer. The group is currently studying Exodus and all men are invited.

*Prayer Meeting:* We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, at 5:15 PM in the chapel, to pray for one another, the kingdom, and our world. Please join us.

*Psalm Sing* meets Sunday evenings at 6:30, at the Schroeder's (55 Buttonquail Ln). All ages and voices are invited.

*The Women's Study:* A study of the Book of Acts, led by Cherry Gonzales, meets Thursdays, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM at the Church (childcare is provided), and all are welcome.

## **Sermon Notes: "Faith and Crisis" (Luke 8.40-56)**

1. Two Crises

2. Faith in Crisis

3. Crisis and the Believer

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Rev. Andrew Allen* continues to gain strength and show signs of improvement. Pray for complete healing, and that he and Amy are kept in God's peace.

*Christ Central Presbyterian Church:* Pray for Rev. Greg Joines, our church planter in Corvallis, that God strengthens and blesses his labors as he gives himself to the city and the church he is planting.

*The Christian Aid Center* cares for those in our community who are hurting and in need. Pray that God continues to use its staff and volunteers to convey his love and grace to many.

*Mike Givens* took a fall this past week and, though nothing was broken, is in a bit of pain. Pray for relief as well as for protection as he heals, and that he is soon able to rejoin us.

*Cherry Gonzales* is having carpal tunnel surgery this Wednesday. Pray it is effective, that she has an easy recovery, and is kept in God's peace throughout.

*Barb McLean's* knee replacement surgery was a success. Pray that her recovery and rehab go well, and that she knows God's presence and strength as she recuperates.

*Vickie Myers' surgery* was a success as well. Pray for her recovery, that she soon returns to full strength, and that she is kept from further incidents.

## **Announcements**

*Christian Aid Dinner:* We are serving dinner tomorrow night at the Christian Aid Center. If you would like to help prepare or serve the meal, please let Heidi Leinweber know.

*Women's Ministry Event:* All women and girls are welcome to attend a Book Share on Friday, March 15 at 7:00 PM in the chapel. We will enjoy a time of fellowship with one another as we talk about books! Come prepared by thinking of one or two books that you would recommend to others. It can be your favorite book, or a recent good read. Books can be from any genre. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Anna Curfman if you have any questions.

*Visitors:* Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and would love to have you join us next door, following the service, for some refreshments and fellowship.

### **Explanation of Cover Symbol**

The anchor is an ancient Christian symbol for hope. It is derived from Hebrews 6.19: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul..." When combined with a cross it makes plain that Christian hope is in Christ and His redemption. The symbol was frequently used in this sense in the catacombs of ancient Rome.