

God Is In The Midst 4. God's Love is Steadfast

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Larger Size Bulletin and Announcements are available – please ask an usher

*The Prelude is part of our Order of Worship, time to pray
and seek quietness as we all prepare to worship God together.*

PRELUDE “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” Maker

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION and CHURCH NEWS Jim Simpson
MINUTE FOR MISSION: Nomination Committee

* **CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT HYMN # 53 v3** “O God, Who Gives Us Life”
*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.*

* **CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF LENTEN CANDLE** Candy Frank
We come from north, south, east, and west to proclaim:
God’s steadfast love endures forever.
We come carrying heartbreak and hope to proclaim:
God’s steadfast love endures forever.
We come as children, full of exuberance and uncertainty, to proclaim:
God’s steadfast love endures forever.
We come as elders, bearing wisdom and exhaustion, to proclaim:
God’s steadfast love endures forever.
Lighting Lenten candle
**God of the wanderers, be with us as we travel through your Word today.
Guide us to love and be loved. Amen.**

* **HYMN # 305** “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy”

CALL TO CONFESSION and PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*silent prayer, then spoken*)
Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints.
**We grumble about the evils in our world,
even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit.**
**We fret about the scarcity of resources
while hoarding earth’s goods and cheating the poor.**
**We protest the problems of our world,
but we do not actively work to address them.**

**Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace.
Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways
that we me know the joy of eternal life
in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SONG OF ASSURANCE # 418 v3 and Refrain “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”
*O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.
“Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.”
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”*

CHILDREN’S SERMON (*Activity Packs for children available ask Usher*)

***HYMN # 67** “My Song Forever Shall Record”

GOSPEL READING John 3:14-21 (p.88/p.114) Peggy Reich
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM “Alive in Christ!” Berry

SERMON “New Pathways” Jim Simpson
Includes Responsive Reading of **Psalm 107:1-32** (see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and Lord’s Prayer (...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us...)

THE OFFERING OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY HYMN # 74 “When God Restored Our Common Life”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Peggy Reich
**We praise you God of all nations, and offer these thanksgiving sacrifices,
important to us because of their value,
but important to you because of our value.**
**May they be a sign of our true offering, which is our very lives.
Transform these bits of metal and paper into your glory
just as you transform our flesh and fear into your love.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in one God, creator of all life, maker of past, present and future.

Lord of all people and of all memories and hopes.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Word of grace and love made flesh,

who came to declare good news to those in despair,

to liberate both the oppressed and the oppressor, to proclaim God's mercy as our hope.

We believe in God's Holy Spirit, who takes our shattered dreams

and makes us whole again,

who lifts our dying spirits and gives us courage, who resurrects us to new life.

We believe that the Church is of God and will endure to the end of time,

and calls us into a life of love and service. Amen.

*** HYMN # 39**

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

*** LENTEN PRAYER**

God in the midst, remind us of your constant love;

protect us from all that can distract or harm;

inspire and change us in our Lenten journey,

that we may discover and share your grace and peace. Amen.

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #726 v5 "Will You Come and Follow Me"**

Lord, your summons echoes true, When you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you And never be the same.

In your company I'll go Where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow In you and you in me.

POSTLUDE

"Blessed Assurance"

Knapp

Kathy Cardwell, Director of Music

**All who are comfortable standing, please stand.*

~~ SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH follows this Service. ALL WELCOME ~~

Next Sunday, March 18- GOD IS IN THE MIDST 5. God's love is in our hearts

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34 and John 12:20-33 Sermon: God's New Agreement

Service of Wholeness and Healing

SESSION OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CLASS OF 2018: Ann Rand Debbie Peterson Jim Reich

CLASS OF 2019: Sylvia Goodyear Patty Morris Doris Riggs

CLASS OF 2020: Bruce Burn Candy Frank Frances Young

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March 11, 2018

The Fourth Sunday

in Lent

Dr. Jim Simpson,

Pastor

