

Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2021

*You are invited to observe silence for one minute, breathing in and out,  
centering yourself on the renewing and healing presence  
of the Holy Spirit with us.*

**OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord God, today is the first Sunday of Lent, a season of repentance, of self-examination, of silence and waiting for the leading of your Holy Spirit. Through your Spirit you lead us into the temptations like Jesus, forty days in the wilderness, where our lives are laid bare, and we come face to face with our desires for power—power over our lives and the lives of our friends and enemies and maybe even power over you.

Open us to your grace and mercy, your love and provision, as we confront the world's temptations. Shatter our illusions, save us from ourselves, and open us to the new life of your Holy Spirit—a life of faith, hope, and love. As we let your Spirit lead us into repentance, may we discover the goodness and fullness of life in your kingdom of peace. In the words of Psalmist, may we find in your presence a refuge, a dwelling place, a place of rest.

We ask for your peace and comfort during these hard times. Lead us through this season of despair. You are the God of hope. Fill my heart with your peace. Let your joy overflow in my life. You are the strength in our weakness. Our end is always a beginning with you, Lord. Hold our hands and lift us. Let our souls find rest in your perfect work and we go forward and face an uncertain future. Help us stand firm in faith as we claim your promises of strength, guidance, presence and hope as we pray as our Lord prayed: **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.**

**OPENING HYMN 2 *Come Thou Almighty King***

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

God takes broken promises and turns them into vows of faithfulness. God takes our biggest failings and shapes lives of service. God listens to our prayers of confession and changes them into songs of mercy. Let us come to the One who pours forgiveness into our lives, praying,

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God, we admit we are hesitant to walk to Jerusalem and beyond with you. In a world where we worry about tomorrow before enjoying today, we race by your moments of silence and learning. In that flood of worries, which can overwhelm us, we may miss that assurance that you have not cut us off from your grace, your joy and your hope. Forgive us and have mercy on us. In humility, may we offer our**

**lives to others. In love, may we share your grace with everyone we meet. In hope, may we wait for you all our days, as you come to us in the life and joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

#### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

In every wilderness, on every road, through every flood; in every moment, in every life; in every journey, in every heart, we receive the daily bread we need - God's hope, God's mercy, God's joy. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Through your Spirit, we pray for the ability to hear your message, for the insight to understand it, and for the courage to live it. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING(*Pew Bible, page 7*)

Genesis 9: 8-17

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

#### ANTHEM

*Lord Jesus Walk with Me* David Lantz  
*Michele Pappas, Katie Karlen and Sanctuary Choir*

#### NEW TESTAMENT READING(*Pew Bible, page 34*)

Mark 1: 9-15

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

#### HYMN 482 *Baptized in Water*

#### SERMON

*Baring Our Souls*

Sherry Holloman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the *Iona Community*

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Jesus said, *"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."* With joy, may we return to God the gifts entrusted to us and give thanks that God will use them and us to proclaim the story of the Lord's love in word and deed.

OFFERTORY

*Order My Steps*  
*Katie Karlen and Sanctuary Choir*

Jay Rouse

RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING 605 *Praise to God the Father*

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name—you are mine! When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel. Do not be afraid, for I am with you.

May the power and the peace of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be present around us and within us wherever we find ourselves this week.

CLOSING HYMN 166 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*