



## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021

9:00am

**“The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life.  
It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only,  
but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul  
and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart.”**

**—John Calvin**

Prelude

What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
Arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome

Call to Worship

*Today in worship, we will be reminded that again and again, we are called to listen.  
This is part of our invitation as people of faith—to not only speak, pray, and sing, but to listen.  
Listening is hard.  
From our toddler years on up, we struggle to listen,  
particularly when we don't know what we're listening for or we don't agree with what we're hearing.  
So for just a moment, as we gather ourselves for worship, join in a meditative call to worship through this  
breath prayer.  
Let us listen, let us pray:*

Family of faith, I invite you to close your eyes. Rest your feet on the floor beneath you. Release any tension you are holding—In your jaw, your neck, your shoulders, your hands, your legs, your feet. Take a deep breath in and slowly let it out. The Hebrew word for breath, *ruach*, is the same word for Spirit. So as you breathe, imagine that it is God who is filling up your lungs with energy and love. Trust that God is as close as your very breath. Still your mind, and listen. Listen deep. Listen far. Listen wide. Listen. The sound of your breath is the sound of the Divine. This is a holy space. Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, as you obediently take the path that leads downward toward the cross, give us what we need to walk with you. Though we cower as the cross looms large before us, strengthen us so that we faithfully follow that way to which you have called us. Amen.

Hymn # 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

Prayer of Confession

**Listening God,  
take what is closed in us and open it.  
Take what is distracted in us and settle it.  
Take what is hurting in us and hold it.  
Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you.  
For we are like Peter, O God.  
We argue what we don't know. We fear what we cannot see.  
And we almost always speak sooner than we listen.  
So open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us.  
We long to hear you more clearly. We long to know you more fully.  
With hope we pray, and with gratitude we confess. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this:

God is here. God sees you. God knows you. God meets you at the edge of every new beginning,  
And God calls you beloved.

**We are washed by the water.**

**We are called beloved.**

**Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

Response

Land of Rest

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Children's Message

Ministry Updates

Matthew 25 Moment for Ministry

Special Music

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands  
arr. Moses Hogan

Prayers of the People and 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.**

Giving and Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Andante from Sonata in D Major  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Hymn # 720

Jesus Calls Us

Prayer for Illumination

Creator God, We cannot hear the trees growing—seeds pushing up through the dirt into the sun. And we cannot hear a single drop of rain, missing one in the many. We cannot hear the weight of people's grief, a burden that so often is silent. And we cannot hear when hearts are changed, but you can. You hear it all. So once again, we come to you with bowed heads and hopeful hearts, asking that you would lend us your ears. Help us to hear as you hear so that we can live as you lived. We are listening. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Mark 8.31-38

*Following Jesus has always been a challenge—particularly for those first disciples who were hearing Jesus for the first time—but Jesus continues to teach and prepare followers for this life of faith.*

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Sermon

“Which Way Should We Go?”

Bob Sheldon

Affirmation of Faith

Westminster Confession

**The Lord Jesus in his human nature thus united to the divine, was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit above measure; having in him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, in whom it pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell: to the end that being holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth, he might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of a Mediator and Surety. Which office he took not unto himself, but was thereunto called by his Father; who put all power and judgment into his hand, and gave him commandment to execute the same. (6.045)**

Hymn # 320

The Church of Christ in Every Age

Lenten Charge & Blessing

As you leave this space,  
May your mouth speak of God’s goodness.  
May your arms hold those in need.  
May your feet walk toward justice.  
May your heart trust its worth.  
May your soul dance in God’s grace.  
And may this be your rhythm—  
Again and again and again,  
Until God’s promised day.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,  
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.  
Amen.

Postlude

C Minor Prelude  
Johann Sebastian Bach

## FIRST PRES ....

**Leading us in worship** today are Rev. Bob Sheldon, Interim Pastor; Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; Sandor Kadar, Director of Music; Kira Boros, Choir Accompanist; Kiana Rivera, alto soloist. This service was adapted from a liturgy written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

### About Today's Service

*On the Second Sunday of Lent, we continue the journey to Jerusalem and the cross. Each step of this journey is a choice: to turn away and save ourselves, or to continue to follow and grow. Each step of this journey is an opportunity: to choose who we will serve and how we will live.*

**Our sympathy and prayers** are with Elle Lewis and family in the death of her husband, Earl.

**Easter Flowers** – Because we will be worshipping outdoors this year, we will be shifting our tradition around Easter lilies. Rather than dedicating a flower, we are inviting people to give \$12 (the cost of a lily) to the Matthew 25 fund in honor or memory of a loved one. You can either make your gift online at [www.firstpreswc.com/easterflowers](http://www.firstpreswc.com/easterflowers); email your request to Karen Goldstein ([kgoldstein@firstpreswc.com](mailto:kgoldstein@firstpreswc.com)) or mail to the church office with a gift of \$12 by March 28. Please put your name as well as the name of your loved ones and whether it is in memory of or in honor of. Thank you from the Worship Committee!

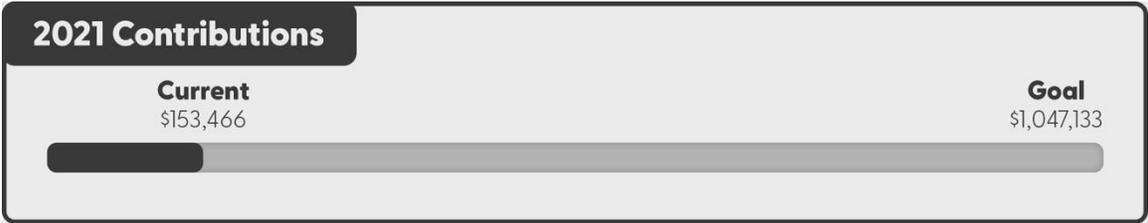
### An Important Anniversary is Coming

Sunday, March 14 will mark one year since the covid-19 pandemic turned our lives upside down. We transitioned to worshipping, working and learning from home, wearing masks, and maintaining relationships from a distance. This has been incredibly hard, a time that many will be mourning and recovering from for years to come. But we also stand at this anniversary with hope, knowing that spring is coming, vaccines are both already here and more coming, and we anticipate coming together for worship again very soon.

To mark this sacred moment in time, you are invited to come to First Pres on Sunday, March 14 to add your prayers to a Lenten prayer wall. The prayer wall will be set up outside the church, with strips for you to write your prayers on and then weave into the wall. The ampersand design is connected to our Lenten theme of “Again & Again.” It is a visual representation of the prayers of our community, that we come to God again and again, knowing that we are heard and loved and that God’s work in the world is not finished.



The Prayer Wall will be available for your contributions from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm on Sunday, March 14. You are invited to come to church “again” as an extension of worship and as an act of hope, reminding yourself that that you are part of a congregation that is still pursuing God faithfully as we find our way forward in this time.



The above graph shows the giving amount as of 2/24/2021 compared to the full year goals for contributions so far. This chart will be presented each week to keep the congregation well-informed of our progress. Further details can be found on the Financial Reporting page on our website.