



## First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood Worship Second Sunday in Lent – March 13, 2022

\*All who are able, please stand.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & SHARING OF CHURCH LIFE

### TOLLING OF THE HOUR

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Wait for the Lord; be strong!

**The promises of God will never be broken.**

With God as our light, what is there to fear?

**The promises of God will never be broken.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

**The promises of God will never be broken. Let us worship God!**

### \*HYMN #49

"The God of Abraham Praise"

1 The God of Abraham praise,  
who reigns enthroned above,  
the Ancient of Eternal Days,  
the God of love!  
The Lord, the great I am,  
by earth and heaven confessed,  
we bow before your holy name,  
forever blest.

2 Your spirit still flows free,  
high surging where it will.  
In prophet's word you spoke of old  
and you speak still.  
Established is your law,  
and changeless it shall stand,  
deep writ upon the human heart  
by your strong hand.

3 Your goodly land we seek,  
with peace and plenty blest,  
a land of sacred liberty  
and Sabbath rest.  
There milk and honey flow,  
and oil and wine abound,  
and trees of life forever grow  
with mercy crowned.

4 You have eternal life  
implanted in the soul;  
your love shall be our strength and stay,  
while ages roll.  
We praise you, living God!  
We praise your holy name:  
the first, the last, beyond all thought,  
and still the same!

## LENTEN CANDLE RITUAL

### REFLECTION & EXTINGUISHING OF THE SECOND CANDLE

#### PRAYER

#### RESPONSE #775

"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

**Eternal God, we are quick to join our fore-parents doubt and impatience, but we find it difficult to copy their faith and trust. We want to believe your promises, but the here-and-now problems of daily life consume our focus and erode our faith. Open our eyes to your light. Open our hearts to your love. Open our minds to your possibilities. Speak to us today, O God, and strengthen our faith, that we, too, may know the everlasting power of your love. Hear us, as we silently confess our sins...** (silent confession)

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, Siblings in Christ, God has heard our confession, as forgiven people, we are able to cling to these promises:

**We are God's. God will find us. God will love us back to life. Amen!**

#### \*RESPONSE #468

"Be Glorified"

1 In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.

2 In your church, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.

In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

#### \*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you: **and also with you.**

*(For the safety of all, please share the peace with a smile or wave from your seat.)*

#### ANTHEM

"Be Thou My Vision"

arr. Mark Hayes

#### SCRIPTURE

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Later the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision, "Abram, don't be afraid! I will protect you and reward you greatly." <sup>2</sup> But Abram answered, "Lord All-Powerful, you have given me everything I could ask for, except children. And when I die, Eliezer of Damascus will get all I own. <sup>3</sup> You have not given me any children, and this servant of mine will inherit everything."

<sup>4</sup> The Lord replied, "No, he won't! You will have a son of your own, and everything you have will be his." <sup>5</sup> Then the Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look at the sky and see if you can count the stars. That's how many descendants you will have." <sup>6</sup> Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord was pleased with him. So Abram's faith made him right with the Lord. <sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Abram, "I brought you here from Ur in Chaldea, and I gave you this land." <sup>8</sup> Abram asked, "Lord God, how can I know the land will be mine?" <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord told him, "Bring me a three-year-old cow, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a dove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> Abram obeyed the Lord. Then he cut the animals in half and laid the two halves of each animal opposite each other on the ground. But he did not cut the doves and pigeons in half. <sup>11</sup> And when birds came down to eat the animals, Abram chased them away. <sup>12</sup> As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and everything became dark and frightening.

<sup>17</sup> Sometime after sunset, when it was very dark, a smoking cooking pot and a flaming fire went between the two halves of each animal. <sup>18</sup> At that time the LORD made an agreement with Abram and told him: "I will give your descendants from the Nile River in Egypt to the River Euphrates in Assyria."

## SERMON

## "What? How?"

Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower

### \*HYMN #838

### "Standing on the Promises"

1 Standing on the promises of Christ my king,  
through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)

3 Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,  
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)

4 Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God our creator and redeemer. In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power.

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

**You formed us in your image to love and serve you,**

**but we forgot your promises and abandoned your commandments.**

In your mercy, you did not reject us but still claimed us as your own.

When we were slaves in Egypt you freed us and led us through the waters of the sea.

**You fed us with heavenly food in the wilderness,  
and satisfied our thirst from desert springs.**

On the holy mountain you gave us your law to guide us in your way.

**Through the waters of Jordan you led us into the land of your promise,  
and you sustained us in times of trial.**

You spoke through prophets calling us to turn from our willful ways  
to new obedience and righteousness.

**You sent your only Son to be the way to eternal life.**

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of  
every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might.  
Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high-est Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of our guilt.**

**He shared our life in every way, and though tempted, was sinless to the end.**

Baptized as your own, he went willingly to his death and by your power was raised to new life.

**In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin  
and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.**

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts  
you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.

**Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of  
ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.**

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood  
of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ, and with all who are baptized in his  
name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send  
us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

**Help us, O God, to be obedient to your call to love all your children,**

**to do justice and show mercy, and to live in peace with your whole creation.**

**Guide us through the desert of life, quench our thirst with the living waters,**

**satisfy our hunger with the bread of heaven. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory.**

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,  
with the Holy Spirit 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**

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is shared.

### **SHARING OF THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REQUESTS**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **INVITATION TO RECEIVE OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

#### **\*HYMN #39**

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

### **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

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***Participants in this worship service:***

**The Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower**, guest pastor | **Elder Lisa Segedy**, liturgist  
**Shaun Cloonan**, minister of music | **Sunny Sakai**, pianist | **The Sanctuary Choir**  
**John Foster**, videographer

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or audio only on our SoundCloud channel at [www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood](http://www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood)



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**Welcome! Thanks be to God for allowing us to worship with you!**

**UPDATED IN-PERSON WORSHIP GUIDELINES:**

Due to the CDC's updated version of tracking COVID community levels, Allegheny County is now Low. As a result, the Worship Committee has begun to slowly relax some of our guidelines for in-person worship:

- Masks are now optional for all in attendance. We will continue to have a supply of disposable masks at the entrances to the church for those who wish to wear one during services.
- Please continue to social distance in the marked pews.
- The choir will continue to mask during their hour-long rehearsal, but may choose to remove the mask during the performance of the anthem in worship.
- Out of respect for those who choose or need to continue wearing masks, our practice of passing the peace and sharing communion from our seats, as well as collecting the offering at the entrance to the sanctuary will not change.

We will continue to monitor cases and transmission levels and will relax or strengthen this guidance as health and safety protocols dictate. Thanks to all for their cooperation in keeping our church family healthy and safe.

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US TODAY: first, welcome! Please fill out a blue visitor's card found in the pew rack. If you are interested in being on our email or newsletter mailing lists, provide that information so we can keep in touch. We hope you consider joining us more often!

WE WELCOME BACK TO OUR PULPIT the Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower as guest pastor this morning.

BOOK CLUB MEETS WEEKLY, discussing "The Scrolls from the Dead Sea" by Edmund Wilson, 10AM, Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apessos, 361 Maple Avenue, Edgewood.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY: 7:00PM at <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/6670286724>  
No password is needed. Email Tim Hoffman at [HoffmanTL@gmail.com](mailto:HoffmanTL@gmail.com) with questions.

RECYCLE BINS are located in the last pew in sanctuary and blue bin at side vestibule entrance for bulletins, cups, (list of what is accepted is posted on bins).

***Join us for upcoming worship services:***

March 20 – Third Sunday in Lent, Emerging Worship, Heather Henkel preaching  
March 27 – Fourth Sunday in Lent, Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower preaching  
April 3 – Fifth Sunday in Lent, Communion, Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower preaching  
April 10 – Palm/Passion Sunday Readers' Theater Service  
April 14 – Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service, 7:00PM, Rev. Bob Ruefle preaching  
April 17 – Easter Sunday, Rev. Michael Rucker preaching, Communion

**EASTER FLOWERS**

We seek your help in making our sanctuary a place of graceful beauty and meaning on Easter morning. Through your donation, we can accomplish this:

I wish to contribute an Easter plant.      Lily \_\_\_\_      Tulip \_\_\_\_      Daffodil \_\_\_\_      Hyacinth \_\_\_\_

The wording for the bulletin is:

\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Order placed by \_\_\_\_\_

Please check:      \_\_\_ I would like to take the plant  
                             \_\_\_ I would like it to be planted in the Prayer Garden



The cost of each plant is \$9.00. Please send check (payable to FPCE or pay online at [fpcedgewood.org/donate](http://fpcedgewood.org/donate)) with form and return it to the Church Office. Deadline is April 4, 2022 .

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

AH=Apessos Home, B=Basement Band Room, C=Choir Room,  
GP=Gathering Place, L=Lounge, O=Office, PS=Pastor's Study,  
S=Sanctuary, Sc=Scout Room, SL=Side Lawn, SR=Social Room

### Monday, March 14

6:30PM Scouts (Sc/SR)  
7:00PM Vocal Confluence (S)

### Tuesday, March 15

10:00AM Book Club (AH)  
7:00PM Edgewood Symphony Orchestra (S)

### Wednesday, March 16

7:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

### Thursday, March 17

5:00PM Flute Lesson (L)  
7:00PM Milepost6 (B)

### Friday, March 18

5:00PM Flute Lesson (L)  
8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

### Saturday, March 19

8:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous (SR)

### Next Sunday, March 20

9:30AM Worship Ensemble Rehearsal (S)  
11:00AM Emerging Worship (S)  
Youth Sunday School (GP)

## How can you become involved?

As we reopen, working to rebuild and reimagine the ministries at FPCE, consider if you have a heart for:

- Encouraging our younger members
- Learning more about God & faith
- Praising God through music
- Serving senior citizens
- Working in publicity/advertising

...please contact a member of our FPCE Family listed below for more details on how to become involved!

## OUR FPCE FAMILY

*Office & Cleaning Manager*

**Judy Mysels**

[office@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:office@fpcedgewood.org)

*Building Manager*

**Rob Mysels**

[building@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:building@fpcedgewood.org)

*Minister of Music*

**Shaun Cloonan**

[music@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:music@fpcedgewood.org)

*Pianist*

**Sunny Sakai**

[Sunnysakai4@gmail.com](mailto:Sunnysakai4@gmail.com)

*Ministers*

**The Entire Congregation**



*Believing we are called together by God's love through Jesus Christ,  
our mission as the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood is to  
love God, to love each other, and to love our neighbors.*

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