

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Of Westminster



The Service of Worship
2nd Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2020 – 11:00 am

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Somewhere in the Silence” – *Martin*

Jenny Myers

(During the prelude we invite you to center yourself for worship)

Call to Worship:

Leader: May the God of great adventures be with you!

People: *And also with you!*

Leader: It is God who is able to keep our hearts filled with hope and peace.

People: *We will offer our hearts to the One who is our Keeper.*

Leader: Trust in the promises whose fulfillment we cannot see.

People: *We lift our songs to the One who is always with us.*



Litany for Lent:

Leader: Christ of the comfortable, you would call us from our security and sameness, down that unknown path which leads to God's heart:

People: *with trust, we would place our hands in yours, and follow.*

Leader: Companion of our sleepless nights, you would beckon us out of the shadows of our fears, calling us to bring our doubts and questioning hearts along:

People *with humility, we would listen to those answers we do not expect, or even understand.*

Leader: Word which creates out of nothingness, you would fill us with life where we see only emptiness, you would keep your promises when all ours lie littered on the ground:

People: *we would let your grace transform us into faithful disciples.*



65 Washington Road, Westminster, Maryland 21157
Church Office: 410-861-5600
Preschool: 443-289-9019
www.fpcwest.org fpcw.office@gmail.com


Leader: Keeper of every moment,
People: walk with us, we pray.

Leader: Watcher in the night:
People: stay with us, we pray.

Leader: Spirit of new life:
People: be in us, as we pray together saying, 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 sins as we forgive those who sinned against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.


 Hymn: #263 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (Words are on the screens.)

Confession of Sin:

 Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus or Sarah. We look for an answer online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives.

Yet you continue to keep watch of us, Promise Giver, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives, or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the night. You will not stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You will always be our help, whether or not we recognize it or accept it, even as you remained faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

 Silent Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace:

L: May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.
P: **And also with you.**

(Now please share The Peace with those around you.)



 Response: #579 “Glory Be to the Father”

Children’s Moment (Following the Children’s Moment, children ages 4-7 (preschool-1st grade) are invited to Children’s Worship/Sprouts. They will return after the sermon. On the first Sunday of the month, only the Sprouts and New Creation singing groups will meet.)

Anthem: “Praise to the Lord” - Edwards

 Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons: (Screens as well as Matthew’s reading, will be from NRSV.)

John 3:1-21 (Pew Bible, page 1051)


L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: “The Gospel in Miniature”

 Hymn: #84 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” (Words are on the screens.)

 Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed (page 14, The Hymnal)


 Concerns, Prayers of the People (Prayer Cards can be found in the pew.)
Prayer Family –Harold, Karen, Lindsey & Shannon Scott–

The Offering:

Invitation to Offering


Presentation of Offerings

Offertory: “Praise the Lord in His Holy Place” – arr. Roberts

 Prayer of Dedication

Doxology: #592 (on the screens)

 Hymn: #85 “What Wonderful Love Is This” (Words are on the screens.)

 Benediction

 Response: “Go Forth” (on the screens)

 Postlude: “The Church’s One Foundation” - arr. Mansfield

Please note: at places marked by  all who are asked to stand.

As Our Service of Worship Ends, Our Ministry of Service Begins!
