

February 25, 2024
Second Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE "Piano Sonata No. 8, mov. II" Beethoven

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE Rex Hauser

TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL HUNGER OFFERING

OPENING SENTENCES

From water to wilderness:

God's covenant continues;

God's kingdom comes near.

On stone and in hearts:

God's covenant continues;

God's kingdom comes near.

From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

God's covenant continues;

God's kingdom comes near.

We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

for where he is, we would be also.

John 12:26

Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Rom. 4:25; Mark 8:34*

+HYMN: GTG #39 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" FAITHFULNESS

CALL TO CONFESSION *Rom. 4:21*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Mark 8:34-37*

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not been sincere Christians.

We claim to follow Jesus

but have not taken his path of sacrificial love.

We profess to be disciples,

but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.

We affirm the virtue of self-denial,

but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for sincere repentance

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS *Rom. 4:24*

... In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN: GTG #819 "Be Still, My Soul" FINLANDIA

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Holy God, hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School

INVITATION TO OFFERING *Mark 8:36*

OFFERTORY "Valses No. 3" Granados

+RESPONSE: GTG #606 OLD HUNDREDTH
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *The Heidelberg Catechism*
(Germany, 1563)

61. Why do you say that through faith alone you are righteous?

Not because I please God by the worthiness of my faith. It is because only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness make me righteous before God, and because I can accept this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than through faith.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 O.T. page 10

PSALM Psalm 22:23-31

You who fear the LORD, give praise!

All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;

but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

Let those who seek the LORD give praise!

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,

shall kneel before the LORD.

Their descendants shall serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance

to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Romans 4:13-25 N.T. page 118

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 8:31-38 N.T. page 34

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE

The word of God.

We praise you, O Lord.

ANTHEM "Order My Steps (In Your Word)" Burleigh /
arr. Schrader

SERMON "Covenant Two: Abraham and Sarah" Rev. Bill Pinches

+HYMN: GTG #838 "Standing on the Promises" PROMISES

+CHARGE

Disciples of Jesus,

do not shun the way of the cross,

but follow wherever our Lord may lead.

Amen.

+BLESSING

May the blessing of God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

uphold you on the way.

Alleluia!

+CHORAL BENEDICTION "Go in Love" Price / Besig

POSTLUDE "Theme of Paganini, Var. XXVIII" Rachmaninoff

**You are invited to join us
for fellowship and refreshments
after worship in the Memorial Room.**

It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.

SERVING US TODAY

Liturgist: Steve Sowles

Greeters: Jenny Bond and Mari Nicol

Next Week's Greeters: Rex Hauser and Mary Garland Jackson

Sound: Timothy Pinches

Livestream: Tami Chapman

Security: Dan Baker

Today's flowers are given by

Karen O'Malley

in memory of

Elizabeth and Charles Neighbor

CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

#73. Epistle of James:

This letter to Jewish Christians has traditionally been attributed to James the brother of Jesus, or sometimes to James the son of Alphaeus. It is difficult to date.

THE STUDY CATECHISM

Question 128. What is meant by the second petition, “Your kingdom come”?

We are asking God to come and rule among us through faith, love and justice — and not through any one of them without the others. We pray for both the church and the world, that God will rule in our hearts through faith, in our personal relationships through love, and in our institutional affairs through justice. We ask especially that the gospel will not be withheld from us, but rightly preached and received. We pray that the church will be upheld and increase, particularly when in distress; and that all the world will more and more submit to God's reign, until that day when crying and pain are no more, and we live forever with God in perfect peace.

CREDITS

Opening Sentences, Prayer of the Day, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness, Prayers of Intercession, Prayers to Offering, Prayer of Dedication, Prayer for Illumination, Blessing, and Charge: Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014.

Responsive Psalms, Canticles, and Other Prayers: *Book of Common Worship*, Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

Other Scripture Readings: New Revised Standard Version Bible—Updated Edition, copyright © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Affirmation of Faith: From *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, Part I: *Book of Confessions*, published by the Office of the General Assembly, © 2016.

The Study Catechism (Full Version): Approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Music: “Piano Sonata No. 8, mov. II.” By Ludwig van Beethoven. Public domain. “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923. Music: William Marion Runyan, 1923. Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company. Used with permission, One License #A-717602. “Be Still, My Soul.” Text: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855, alt. Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt. Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Know Press). “Valse No. 3.” By Enrique Granados. Public domain. “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (*Doxology*). Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709. Tune: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551. Public domain. “Order My Steps (*In Your Word*).” Arranged by Jack Schrader. Words and music by Glenn Burleigh. Copyright © 1991 and this arr. © 2000 Burleigh Inspirations Music. “Standing on the Promises.” Text and Music: R. Kelso Carter, 1886. Public domain. “Go in Love.” Words by Don Besig and Nancy Price. Music by Don Besig. Copyright © 1993 Harold Flammer Music, a division of Shawnee Press, Inc. Used with permission, One License #A-717602. “Theme of Paganini, Var. XXVIII.” By Sergei Rachmaninoff. Public domain.

Art: *God's Covenant with Abraham*. St. Anne's Chapel, Worcestershire, England. From *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. Source: <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55121>. Original source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/overton_cat/6109688784/. Used with permission.

Mason First Presbyterian Church

131 E Maple St, Mason, MI 48854-1655
(517) 676-9333
info@masonpresbyterian.org
www.masonpresbyterian.org
Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-11:30am

MINISTERS

All Members

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Bill Pinches
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Charlie Herrick
Spiritual Growth Director: Lori Filka
Office Manager: Sheren Wright
Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director: Deb Melse
Choral Music Accompanist / Organist: Feng Kang
Office Assistant: Nancy Sue MacDonald
Sexton: Eric VanDyke
Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Michelle Mackey
Child Care: Jill Castle, Aimee Cruickshank, Isaiah Hawkins, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons

ELDERS

Class of 2024: Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.
Class of 2025: Doreen Chapman, Anita Cote, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck (*Recording Clerk*).
Class of 2026: Bruce Archer (*Clerk of Session*), Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

DEACONS

Class of 2024: Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.
Class of 2025: Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches, Tom Seely (*Moderator*).
Class of 2026: Ron Dlouhy, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald

DAILY PRAYER

Book of Common Worship: Daily Prayer (2018)

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today	Annual Congregational Meeting	11:15 am
Tuesday	Women's Association Craft and Lunch	10:30 am
Wednesday	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:30 am
	Prayer Fellowship (Chapel)	12:00 pm
	NO Wonderful Wednesday this week	
	Wednesday Night Dinner	6:00 pm
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:10 pm
Friday	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	
Saturday	Yarners	10:00 am

BIRTHDAYS

Liam Blonshine	Mar. 1
Ray Strayer	Mar. 1
Isaiah Hawkins	Mar. 2

Mason First Presbyterian Church

February 25, 2024
Second Sunday in Lent



God's Covenant with Abraham
St. Anne's Chapel
Worcestershire, United Kingdom

*The fruit of the Spirit
is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*
(Galatians 5:22-23)