

March 23, 2025  
Third Sunday in Lent

**PRELUDE** "My Jesus, I Love Thee" arr. Brendlinger

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Everyone who thirsts: Isa. 55:1, 3, 6, 7

**Come to the waters, seek the Lord,  
repent and return so that you may live.**

All who are hungry for righteousness: Isa. 55:7; Matt. 5:6

**Come to the waters, seek the Lord,  
repent and return so that you may live.**

All who need the help of God: Ps. 63:7

**Come to the waters, seek the Lord,  
repent and return so that you may live.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

+ **HYMN: GTG #65** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" CWM RHONDDA

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, Isa. 55:1-2, 8;  
we confess that we have grown complacent Luke 13:8  
in our response to you.

**You set before us a rich feast of blessing,  
but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy.**

**You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world,  
but we indulge in our own desires.**

**Our ways are not your ways;  
our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts.  
Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives.**

**Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire  
for a more fruitful life.**

**Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are,  
in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be.**

**We ask this in the name of our Savior,  
your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

... With gratitude, in faith, we will walk the way of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN: GTG #792** "There Is a Balm in Gilead" BALM IN GILEAD

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

+ Those who are able may stand. 1 GTG = Glory to God (purple hymnal)

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School*

**MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE** Gin Gibson

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" Hughes

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

+ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

+ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Confession of 1967*  
(United States)

**10. The risen Christ is the savior of all people. Those joined to him  
by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as God's  
reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the  
church, which began with the apostles and continues through all  
generations.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Isaiah 55:1-9 O.T. page 522  
*Come to the water*

**PSALM** Psalm 63:1-8  
*O God, eagerly I seek you*

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

**So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**

My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

**when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 N.T. page 132  
*Israel, baptized in cloud and seas*

**GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 13:1-9 N.T. page 58  
*The parable of the fig tree*

**RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE** 2 Cor. 5:18-19

All of this is from God,  
who entrusts us with the message of reconciliation.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** arr. Christopher  
*"If My People Will Pray" with "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"*

**SERMON** "Looking for Fruit" Rev. Bill Pinches

+ **HYMN: GTG #438** "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" TOPLADY

+ **CHARGE**

On this third Sunday of Lent, Luke 13:7-8; Ps. 63:1  
we are urged to shake off the complacency that can overtake us;  
to seek God as people in a dry and weary land seek water;  
and to bear fruit in our daily lives  
that contributes to God's kingdom of justice and love.  
**Amen.**

+ **BLESSING**

May the mercy of God ground us,  
the love of Christ take root in us,  
and the Holy Spirit grow in us,  
that we may be ready for the coming of the kingdom.  
**Alleluia!**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION** arr. Carter  
*"Somebody's Knocking at Your Door"*

**POSTLUDE** Handel, arr. Spevacek  
*"Sing for Joy!" from Judas Maccabaeus*

**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:** Barbara Georgescu

**Greeters:** Vicki Drown and Kurt Immekus

**Next Week's Greeters:** Ron Dlouhy and Nancy Sue MacDonald

**Sound:** Marty Subject

**Livestream:** Tami Chapman

**Security:** Will Ozee

**Today's flowers are given by**

Debbie Shellenbarger

in memory of loved ones

## CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

### **#23: Antioch:**

As the church in Antioch grows quickly, Barnabas fetches Saul to help him lead it. The followers of Jesus are given the name “Christians.”  
(Acts 11:19-30) (c. AD 47)

## THE STUDY CATECHISM

### **Question 49. Will all human beings be saved?**

No one will be lost who can be saved. The limits to salvation, whatever they may be, are known only to God. Three truths above all are certain. God is a holy God who is not to be trifled with. No one will be saved except by grace alone. And no judge could possibly be more gracious than our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## CREDITS

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## Mason First Presbyterian Church

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Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### MINISTERS

All Members

### STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Bill Pinches

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Charlie Herrick

**Spiritual Growth Director:** Lori Filka

**Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director:** Deb Melse

**Office Manager:** Jessica Tessman

**Financial Secretary:** Jess Weber

**Choral Music Accompanist:** Le Ji

**Sexton:** Eric VanDyke

**Office Assistant:** Nancy Sue MacDonald

**Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator:** Michelle Mackey

**Child Care:** Jill Castle, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew, Violet Mackey, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons, Keren Tayong

### ELDERS

**Class of 2025:** Doreen Chapman, Mary Garland Jackson, Greg Lang, Monte Shuck (*Recording Clerk*).

**Class of 2026:** Bruce Archer (*Clerk*), Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

**Class of 2027:** Travis Archer, Dan Baker, Evelyn Tayong, Steve Sowles

### DEACONS

**Class of 2025:** Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Tom Seely (*Moderator*).

**Class of 2026:** Ron Dlouhy (*Treasurer*), Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald (*Secretary*), Laurie McGonigal

**Class of 2027:** Donna Archer, Rick Cote, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielsen

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

<b>Today</b>	Adult Class ( <i>The False White Gospel</i> )	11:30 am
	Adult Sunday School (Brené Brown)	11:30 am
<b>Tues.—Sun.</b>	Pastor Bill on vacation	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:15 am
	Prayer Fellowship	12:00 pm
	NO Wonderful Wednesday (Spring Break)	
	NO Wednesday Night Dinner (Spring Break)	
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:10 pm
<b>Friday</b>	Church Office closed / Pastor’s Sabbath	

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Mar. 26: Mary Torrey

Apr. 1: Paul Blonshine

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March 23, 2025  
Third Sunday in Lent



*The Gardener and the Fig Tree*

Artist unknown

Dungarvan, Waterford, Ireland

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our own image,  
according to our own likeness.” (Genesis 1:26)