

March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE "Devotion" Manhire

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

The Lord is merciful and gracious, Ps. 103:8
slow to anger and abounding in love.
Our ancestor Abraham trusted in the Lord, Gen. 15:6
and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.
Our faith depends upon the grace of God. Rom. 4:16-17
Praise the Lord, who gives life to the dead.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

+ HYMN: GTG #645 MIT FREUDEN ZART
"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

CALL TO CONFESSION 2 Cor. 5:20

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth.
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

RESPONSE "Come and See (Kyrie)" MH KYRIE
Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Christe, Christe, Christe eleison.
Interlude

Translation: Lord, Lord, Lord have mercy. Christ, Christ, Christ have mercy.
Christ, Christ, we adore you. Alleluia, Lord, have mercy.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS 2 Cor. 6:2

... In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

HYMN: GTG #829 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" OLIVET

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... In your steadfast love, O Lord,
have mercy on us.

Younger children are dismissed to Sunday School

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE Luke 13:29; 24:30-31
Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; Isa. 55:1, Ps. 63:4-5
let those who have no money come and eat.
**God will satisfy our souls with a rich feast,
and we will bless the Lord as long as we live. ...**

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. ...

"Benedictus" Lewis
Choir: Benedictus, qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.
Translation: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

... that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION 1 Cor. 11:23-26

COMMUNION "God So Loved the World" Stainer
All are welcome at the table of the Lord.
Partake of the bread when it comes to you, mindful of your communion with Christ. Hold the cup and we will all drink together, mindful of our communion with one another.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, as you fed your people in the wilderness with unexpected food, so you feed us at this table with a simple loaf and cup. Here you transform us, by the working of your wondrous love. Now send us out to be Christ's body in your broken and beautiful world to bear your good news of hope and joy for all. Amen.

Older children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School

INVITATION TO OFFERING Mark 8:36-37

OFFERTORY "Forty Days and Forty Nights" Herbst

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

+ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Adapted from the Belhar Confession (1982)
We believe that the unity of the church must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity, and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 12:1-4a O.T. page 7
The blessing of God upon Abram

PSALM Psalm 121 O.T. page 438
The Lord watches over you

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 N.T. page 118
The promise to those of Abraham's faith

GOSPEL LESSON John 3:1-17 N.T. page 71
The mission of Christ: saving the world

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE 1 Cor. 1:23-25
We proclaim Christ crucified—the wisdom and power of God.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "God So Loved the World" Stainer

SERMON "The Teacher of Israel" Rev. Bill Pinches

+ HYMN: GTG #291 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" SPIRIT

+ CHARGE 2 Cor. 5:19
Go in peace, proclaiming the message of reconciliation
God has entrusted to us. **Amen.**

+ BLESSING Isa. 58:11
May the Lord guide you always, satisfying your hunger and thirst
in this dry and weary land. **Alleluia!**

+ CHORAL BENEDICTION Lutkin
Sevenfold Amen from "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

POSTLUDE "Rockingham" Willan

**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

Guest Organist: Caitlyn Brown

Liturgist: Katharine Wise

Communion Servers: Jill Castle, Lisa Castle, Rick Cote,
Laurie McGonigal, Steve Sowles

Greeters: Jill Castle, Lisa Castle, Erin McGonigal, Laurie McGonigal

Next Week's Greeters: Abel and Evelyn Tayong

Sound: Tami Chapman + **Livestream:** Tami Chapman

Security: Tim Hammond and Dan Baker

Today's flowers are given by Ginnie Gibson
in memory of LesLee & Barb Gibson

CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

#67: Assumption of Mary

According to a 5th-century tradition, after the mother of Jesus died, angels took her body up to heaven. Catholics call this the Assumption ("taking up") of Mary.

THE STUDY CATECHISM

Question 103. What is the best summary of the first four commandments?

These teach me how to live rightly with God. Jesus summed them up with the commandment he called the first and greatest: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matt. 22:37; Deut. 6:5).

CREDITS

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Mason First Presbyterian Church

131 E Maple St, Mason, MI 48854 • (517) 676-9333

office@masonpresbyterian.org

www.masonpresbyterian.org

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: Becky Moots

Choral Music Accompanist: Yinzhe Li

Sexton: Eric VanDyke

Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Michelle Mackey

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Sarah Fay-Koutz

Child Care: Jill Castle, Jasmine Leffew,

Violet Mackey, Sam Pinches, Keren Tayong

ELDERS

Class of 2026: Bruce Archer (*Clerk*), Ginnie Gibson,

Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

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

Class of 2028: Mary Garland Jackson, Greg Lang, Suzanne Lang, Monte Shuck

DEACONS

Class of 2026: Ron Dlouhy (*Treasurer*), Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher,

Nancy Sue MacDonald (*Secretary*), Laurie McGonigal

Class of 2027: Donna Archer, Rick Cote (*Co-Moderator*),

Sally Hughes, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielsen

Class of 2028: Sandy Diehl (*Co-Moderator*), Pattie Yanz, Torrie Yanz

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today	Adult Sunday School	11:30 am
Tuesday	Administration Committee	
	Mission Committee	3:00 pm
Wednesday	Lunch packing for Advent House	10:15 am
	Midweek Prayer Service	12:00 pm
	NO Wonderful Wednesday (K-12) this week	
	Wednesday Night Dinner	6:00 pm
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:10 pm
Thursday	Board of Deacons	7:00 pm
Friday	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	
Saturday	Yarners	10:00 am

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Mar. 1: Ray Strayer

Mar. 2: Isaiah Hawkins

Mar. 5: Ruth Sablich

Mar. 6: Ben Pinches

Mar. 7: Travis Archer

Mason First Presbyterian Church

March 1, 2026 Second Sunday in Lent



Christ and Nicodemus
by Fritz von Uhde, c. 1896

"Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God
without being born of water and Spirit."
(John 3:5)