



# Second Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. | February 25, 2024

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

*Lowy*

READ Mark 8:31-9:8

FROM THE ARTIST | Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

I'm not a good listener. In the midst of our national reckoning around structural racism and white supremacy in the U.S., I've found that I've done a terrible job listening to my Black and Brown siblings. I constantly have to resist the urge to explain myself, to be seen as good and antiracist. I try saying all the right things, I do performative acts of allyship, and quite honestly, I need to be quiet and listen. I need to be ready to accept criticism, and instead of trying to prove anything, I need to gain awareness of my internalized biases and learned racist tendencies and do the difficult work of unlearning them in every moment. "Get behind me, Satan" (Mark 8:33).

Here we find Peter stepping in and saying all the right things, rejecting the notion that Christ must suffer and die; but in the end, he's not listening to Jesus. It seems Peter's rejection of this narrative reflects his fear of the suffering he also might face in following Christ. "Let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34).

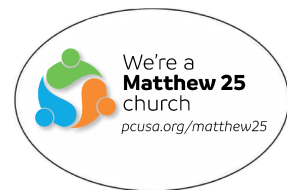
Six days later, the disciples are called to listen once again. In this image, I zoomed out to focus on the moment of Transfiguration. Jesus shines like a beacon atop the high mountain while former prophets appear. The disciples are terrified, but also want to live this moment forever, making the glory-filled rock face their home. At once a cloud descends, obscuring things further, and God's voice echoes down, "This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him!" (Mark 9:7). It's almost as though Jesus had exhausted all efforts to get the disciples to listen, and God had to spectacularly reiterate the importance of listening. I think it's important to note that following God's words, all the disciples could see was Jesus.

PRAY

Breathe deeply as you gaze upon the image on the left. Imagine placing yourself in this scene. What do you see? How do you feel? Get quiet and still, offering a silent or spoken prayer to God.



**Johnson County  
Interfaith Coalition**



---

**Hymns + Songs** | Pages are listed for the printed bulletin

Numbers (#) are listed for music in the *Lift Up Your Hearts* (red) hymnal

**Bold Print** | Speak or sing together in unison.

✙ Please rise in body or in spirit.



**New Guest Connection**

# Second Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. | February 25, 2024

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

## Thought for Reflection

"I really do believe in the New Jerusalem,  
I really do believe that we can all become better than we are.  
I know we can. But the price is enormous—and people are not yet willing to pay it."  
— James Baldwin

## Welcome + Announcements

**Prelude** | *Down to the River to Pray*, arr. By John A. Dempsey

✠ **Call to Gather** | *adapted from a liturgy by Sarah Are*

Today in worship, we will be reminded that again and again, we are called to listen.  
This is part of our invitation as people of faith—to not only speak, pray, and sing, but to listen.  
And I will be the first to say, listening is hard.  
From our toddler years on up, we struggle to listen,  
particularly when we don't know what we're listening for or we don't agree with what we're hearing.  
So for just a moment, as we gather ourselves for worship,  
I want to invite you to join me by embodying our prayer as I prompt you.  
Let us listen, let us pray:  
Family of faith, I invite you to close your eyes.

*Rest your feet on the floor beneath you.  
Release any tension you are holding—  
In your jaw, your neck, your shoulders, your hands, your legs, your feet.  
Take a deep breath in and slowly let it out.  
The Hebrew word for breath (ruach) is the same word for Spirit.  
So as you breathe, imagine that it is God who is filling up your lungs with energy and love.  
Trust that God is as close as your very breath.  
Now I invite you to still your mind. Imagine your mind as a river.  
Thoughts will drift into view; they always do.  
However, instead of holding onto those thoughts, allow yourself to let them float by.  
And listen.  
Listen deep.*

*Listen far.  
Listen wide.  
Listen.  
The sound of your breath is the sound of the Divine.  
This is a holy space.  
Let us worship God.*

✠ **Gathering Hymn** | “My Faith Looks Up to Thee,” pg. 8 (*hymnal*, #426)

✠ **Prayer of Confession and Promise of Ever-Present Grace** | *adapted from a liturgy by Sarah Are*

Often the first step to change is listening.  
We have to listen to those we've hurt.  
We have to listen to creation as she cries.  
We have to listen to the voice of the oppressed,  
If we ever hope to make things right.  
So today as we begin our prayer of confession,  
We will start with our moment of silence—  
A moment to listen.  
And then we will pray together trusting that God is always listening to us,  
And that God's ears listen with love.  
So let us confess, silently and then together...

*Time for Silent Confession*

Listening God,  
**Take what is closed in us and open it.**  
**Take what is distracted in us and settle it.**  
**Take what is hurting in us and hold it.**  
**Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you.**  
**For we are like Peter, O God.**  
**We argue what we don't know. We fear what we cannot see.**  
**And we almost always speak sooner than we listen.**  
**So open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us.**  
**We long to hear you more clearly.**  
**We long to know you more fully.**  
**With hope we pray,**  
**And with gratitude we confess.**



Siblings in Christ,  
We confess with gratitude because we know that God already has heard and forgiven us.  
No matter what we have done or left undone, we are held in God's hand.  
So rest in this good news:  
**God invites us in.**  
**God meets us where we are.**  
**God hears our prayers.**  
**God forgives us.**  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

### ✠ Musical Response

***Glory to the Creator,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.***

### ✠ Sharing of Christ's Peace & Compassion

And now, as a visible sign  
of what it means to live together  
in the care and context  
of Christ's community,  
let us extend Christ's  
peace and compassion  
to those around us!  
The peace of Christ be with you all!  
**And also with you!**

**Old Testament Reading** | Psalm 22:23-31 (*Bible*, pg. 435)  
The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### Time for Young Disciples †

---

† Following the *Time for Young Disciples*, Kindergartners and younger children are welcome to join activities in the Lower Level Children's Area.

**Gospel Reading** | Mark 8:31-38 (*Bible*, pg. 820)

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Prompting** | The Rev. Kyle Otterbein

### **Welcoming New Members**

✠ **Hymn** | “Beneath the Cross of Jesus,” pg. 9 (*hymnal*, #167)

### **Offerings of Time, Treasure, and Talents**

**Offertory** | “Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain,” by Carolyn Jennings

✠ **Response to Our Offerings** | “Doxology”

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

**Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer** | inclusive language version by Parker Palmer

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,  
Holy and blessed is your true name.  
We pray for your reign of peace to come,  
We pray that your good will be done,  
Let heaven and earth become one.  
Give us this day the bread we need,  
and give it to those who have none.  
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us—  
from each one to each one.  
Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days —  
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.  
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:  
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.

✠ **Sending Hymn** | “We’ve Come This Far By Faith,” pg. 10  
(*First Time: Choir Only*)

## ✠ Benediction

**Postlude** | *Fugue in G minor, BWV 542*, by J. S. Bach

## Today's Worship Participants

Rev. W. Robert Martin III and Rev. Kyle Otterbein, *pastors*

Becky Benson, *worship leader*

Austen Wilson, *director of music ministries*

Flute Ensemble | Pat Penn, *director*

Logos Choir | Abby Chen, *organist and accompanist*

Thomas Hartley, *director of children's & family ministries*



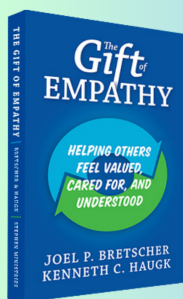
75  
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

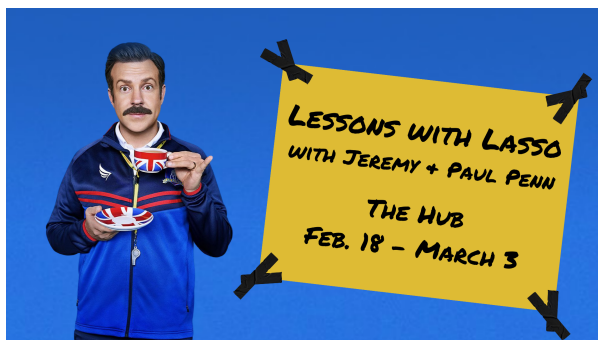
FEBRUARY 14 – MARCH 31, 2024

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY —  
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.



**The Gift of Empathy**  
with Stephen Ministry

Feb. 25 - March 3  
Conference Room



## My Faith Looks Up to Thee

D A D A A7

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
 2 May thy rich grace im-part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
 4 When life's swift race is run, death's cold work al - most done,

D E A D

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
 my zeal in - spire. As thou hast died for me, O may my  
 be thou my guide. Bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's  
 be near to me. Blest Sav - ior, then in love fear and dis -

Bm G D Em/G A7 D

guilt a - way. O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
 love to thee, pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
 trust re - move. O bear me safe a - bove, re - deemed and free!

Words: Ray Palmer, 1830, alt., P.D.

Music (OLIVET 6.6.4.6.6.6.4): Lowell Mason, 1832, P.D.

## Holy Week &amp; Easter Schedule

**Palm Sunday | March 24**

9:30 a.m. | Worship Service

**Maundy Thursday | March 28**

6 p.m. | Pot-Luck | 7 p.m. Service

**Good Friday | March 29**

7 p.m. | Worship Service

**Easter Sunday | March 31**

6:30 a.m. | Fireside Service | *Firepit*

7 a.m. | Sunrise Service | *Hub*

8-11 a.m. | Breakfast Potluck | *MPR*

9 & 11 a.m. | Worship Service | *Sanctuary*

Melodious Harmony Presents

**City Called Heaven:  
The Search for Rest**

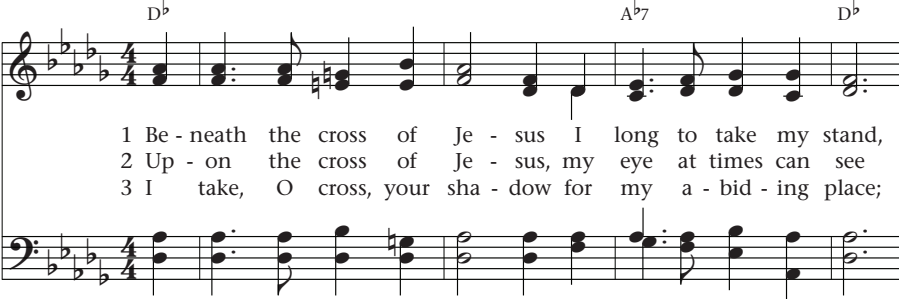
3 P.M. | MARCH 2, 2024





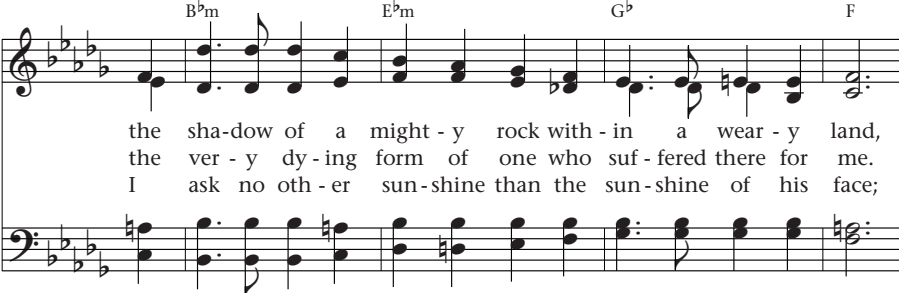
## Beneath the Cross of Jesus

*D<sup>b</sup>* *A<sup>b7</sup>* *D<sup>b</sup>*



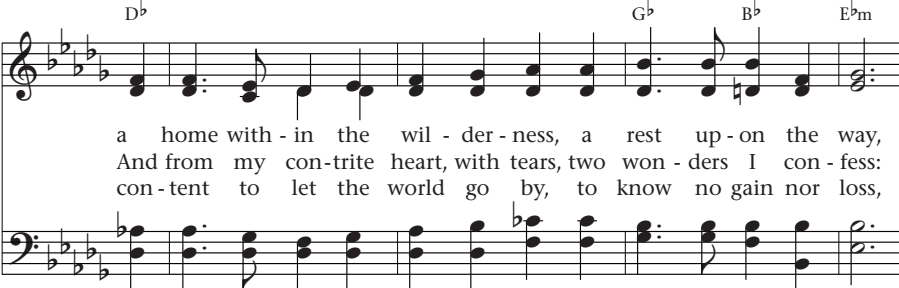
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand,  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your sha - dow for my a - bid - ing place;

*B<sup>b</sup>m* *E<sup>b</sup>m* *G<sup>b</sup>* *F*



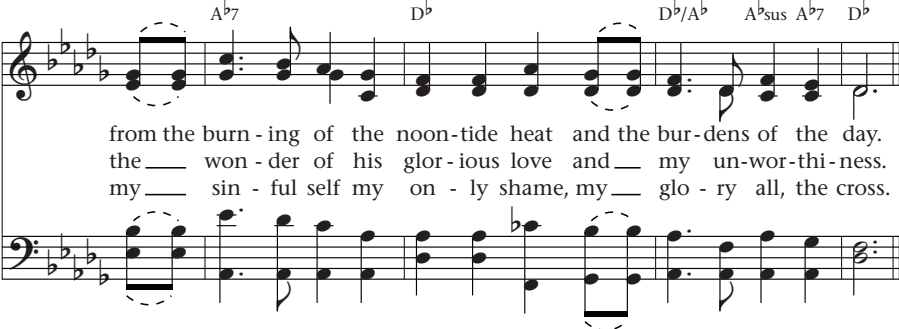
the sha-dow of a might - y rock with - in a wear - y land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

*D<sup>b</sup>* *G<sup>b</sup>* *B<sup>b</sup>* *E<sup>b</sup>m*



a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

*A<sup>b7</sup>* *D<sup>b</sup>* *D<sup>b</sup>/A<sup>b</sup>* *A<sup>b</sup>sus* *A<sup>b7</sup>* *D<sup>b</sup>*



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and the bur - dens of the day.  
the \_\_\_ won - der of his glor - ious love and \_\_\_ my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my \_\_\_ sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my \_\_\_ glo - ry all, the cross.

Words: Elizabeth C. Clephane (1830-1869), P.D.

Music (ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6): Frederick C. Maker (1844-1927), P.D.

# We've Come This Far by Faith 656

We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord,

trust-ing in the ho - ly Word; God's nev-er failed us yet.

O, can't turn a - round, we've come this

far by faith. We've come this far by faith.

This refrain from a longer hymn could well be understood as a black gospel reflection on several biblical passages: 2 Corinthians 5:7, 1 Samuel 7:12, and 1 Chronicles 17:16. All these texts bear witness to God's faithfulness toward all who are engaged in the pilgrimage of faith.

# Reminder of Upcoming Events

- **Melodious Harmony: “City Called Heaven: The Search for Rest,” with Logos Choir** | March 2
- **Photo Studio in the MPR** | March 3
- **Sunday Solace** | March 3
- **At the Table** | March 7
- **Big Table: French Cuisine** | March 8
- **Big Table** | March 15
- **Holy Week**
  - **Palm Sunday** | March 24
  - **Maundy Thursday** | March 28
  - **Good Friday** | March 29
  - **Easter** | March 31
    - *Fireside Service*: 6:30 a.m.
    - *Sunrise Service*: 7 a.m.
    - *Worship*: 9 & 11 a.m.
- **At the Table** | April 4
- **Sunday Solace** | April 7
- **25Live Walk-a-Thon** | April 25
- **ETC Trivia Night** | April 26
- **Children-Led Worship Service** | April 28
- **At the Table** | May 2
- **Melodious Harmony: Arsenal Duo** | May 4
- **Sunday Solace** | May 5
- **Final Week of Sunday School Classes** | May 12
- **Sunday Solace** | June 2
- **Flamy Grant Concert** | June 4
- **At the Table** | June 6
- **Stronghold** | June 9-14
- **VBS** | June 17-21
- **High School Mission Trip** | July 21-26



## Sunday School & Learning Academy Classes

- **2 & 3 Year Olds to 6th Grade** | Meet in Children's Area
- **Jr. High** | Room 19
- **Upcoming Sunday Learning Academy Classes**
  - **Today - March 3** | "**Lessons from Lasso**" | Join father-son pair **Paul & Jeremy Penn** for a humor-filled discussion of the lessons to be learned from the hit television show, "Ted Lasso." | *The Hub*
  - **Feb. 25 - March 3** | "**The Gift of Empathy**" | Join St. Andrew's **Stephen Ministers** for a discussion of empathy. | *Conference Room (#128)*
  - **March 10, 17, and 24** | "Seeing the Passion of Christ through the Eyes of Rembrandt" | Join **Shana Stuart** for an exploration of Lenten art. | *The Hub*
  - **March 17** | "**Adventures in Cooking: Guatemala Style**" (**rescheduled**) | Join **Mike Anderson** to experience cooking homemade corn tortillas and black beans as we discuss **Impacto Ministry**. *Note: This class, which has been rescheduled, is limited to 10 people.*

## Questions about Worship @ St. Andrew?

- **Welcome!** We are happy to have you join us today. If you would like more information about St. Andrew, please email [office@saintandrew-ic.org](mailto:office@saintandrew-ic.org).
- Our worship services begin **in-person and online at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings**. *The service usually begins with Welcome & Announcements a few minutes before 9:30 a.m.*
- All ages are welcome in our worship services. Worship materials for all ages are available in **The Maker's Toolbox** outside the north entrance to the Sanctuary.
- **Nursery care** (up to age 2) is provided in the Lower Level throughout the morning. Programming for children (through Kindergarten age) begins in the Lower Level after the **Time for Young Disciples** on most Sundays and after the **Sharing of Christ's Peace and Compassion** on Communion Sundays.
- Unless otherwise designated, gifts given to the weekly **offering**—either in the offering plates or online—support the church budget, including staff salaries, utilities, mission outreach, and all aspects of ministry at St. Andrew.
- To log into the **St. Andrew Connect** system, either download the **St. Andrew App** through the **App Store/Google Play** or visit [saintandrew.ccbchurch.com](http://saintandrew.ccbchurch.com).
- Permission to livestream the music in this service is from CCLI (#617801) and One License (A-711114)