

The biblical event of the Exodus is remembered throughout scripture as an evidence of God's saving purpose. Christian baptism includes water, as a symbol of washing, but also with awareness that the People of God passed through the water of the Red Sea on their way to their miraculous salvation. We too are being saved!



Our parents were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and the sea... I Corinthians 10: 1-2

## *Service for the Lord's Day*

March 24, 2019  
The Third Sunday of Lent

### *Gathering Around the Word*

**Gathering Music**

Mike Kanan

**Striking of the Hour**

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

*Chorale Prelude on an Orlando Gibbons Melody*  
Holy Ghost, with light divine Shine upon this heart of mine;  
Chase the shades of night away, Turn the darkness into day.

Healey Willan

The Call to Worship expresses our joy in being in God's presence. Our fears are removed. We are protected.

*We Rise in Spirit and in Body*

**Call to Worship**

Like thirsty people reaching for precious water,

**We reach for you, O God.**

Our hearts are full of joy; our mouths are full of praise for you.

**The enemies of the soul still try to betray and destroy, but they shall not snatch us out of your hand.**

We are safe with you now, and we will be secure and happy forever.

**Let us worship God!**

(Psalm 63, adapted)

## Call to Confession

Our confession often takes the form of comparing ourselves and our sinfulness with God and God's holiness. We endure this comparison because God is still working to make us holy.

The peace we offer is the peace we have received by being forgiven.

Elim is an oasis, with "twelve springs and seventy palm trees." (Exodus 15:27) Sinai is the holy mountain of God, where the Ten Commandments will be given. In today's reading, the Hebrews are in between Elim and Sinai. What should we do, when we are in between things? Can such a neutral zone be a creative place?

## Prayer of Lenten Confession

Based on Psalm 32

**Gracious God, you are steadfast in your love. You are the creator of everything we enjoy, and our protector against all evil. But we have never given you the honor you are due. We take your goodness for granted. We restrain ourselves in worship, instead of giving ourselves fully in praise. We have over-fed our appetites for most things, even while neglecting our hunger and thirst for you. Forgive us, we pray. Teach us again how we ought to worship you in Spirit and in truth, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

*A Silence is observed for Personal Confession*

## Declaration of Good News

## Response Hymn 817

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

DUNLAP'S CREEK

*Help then, our Lord, our unbelief:*

*And may our faith abound*

*To call on You when You are near*

*And seek where You are found.*

## Passing of the Peace

*To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares his labor of healing the enmities which separates humankind from God and from each other.*

The Book of Confessions 9.31

### *Hearing the Word*

*All may sit*

## Prayer for Illumination

## Old Testament Reading (Responsive)

Exodus 16:1-8

#### Complaining Against God, But God Brought Us Out and Feeds Us Still

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt.

**The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."**

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day.

**In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.**

On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

**So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?"**

And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we?

**Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."**

## Anthem

*O Taste and See*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

All Stand

**Gospel Reading**

Luke 13:1-9

**Lessons of Repentance and New Life**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

All Sit

**Sermon**

*On the Way to Freedom, But Not There Yet*

Matthew Covington

All Stand

**Response Hymn 435**

*There's A Wideness In God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

***Responding to the Word***

**Affirmation of Faith**

From: A Declaration of Faith 3.1

**God chose one people for the sake of all. To the world in its rebellion and alienation God promised blessing and restoration. The Lord chose Abraham and his descendants as bearers of that promise for all...**

**We acknowledge God's freedom and grace. Though we are unworthy, the Lord has made us his own in Christ. God has chosen us as his servants for the sake of the world and destined us to be his daughters and sons, giving us love and life, calling us to worship and honor him.**

All Sit

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

**Offering**

**Offertory**

*As the Deer*

Martin J. Nystrom

Ernie Small, mandolin/vocals

Wayne Pope, guitar/vocals

David Muffett, vocals

**Doxology**

**Prayer of Dedication**

***Bearing and Following the Word into the Created World***

All Stand

**Closing Hymn 816**

*If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Voluntary VII*

John Stanley

*Largo*

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Please don't identify with the fig tree that the master wanted to cut down! Instead, see yourself as being "let alone" for now. In God's patient grace and mercy, you have time to turn toward what is good.

It is by God's choice and not by our own goodness that we are made daughters and sons of God.

Buck in a Basket for March is for publicity costs related to our Christmas Market.

## WELCOME VISITORS!

*We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the Right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by ministers, officers, and congregation.*

*If you have a fussy baby or are coughing, etc., the worship service may be viewed from the parlor via television (across the hall from the Sanctuary). Loving childcare is available in our children's center for children 3 and under on Sundays, and children's activity packets are available in the narthex.*

### ***The Presbyterian Church Staff***

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Dr. Matthew W. Covington</i>
<i>Organist, Pastoral Assistant</i>	<i>Thomas N. Moody</i>
<i>Choir Director</i>	<i>Dr. Wayne Pope</i>
<i>Financial Administrator</i>	<i>Terry Johnson</i>
<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	<i>Leslee Kirkconnell</i>
<i>Youth Ministry</i>	<i>David Clarke</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Steve Moore</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Cheryl Gregory</i>
<i>Director, Preschool Learning Center</i>	<i>Dana Patterson</i>
<i>Custodian</i>	<i>Cedric Whitney</i>
<i>Children's Music</i>	<i>Ellie Osborne</i>
<i>Sunday Sexton</i>	<i>Barbara Solberg-Hale</i>
<i>Clerk of Session</i>	<i>Tim Leigh</i>

#### **Donate Online:**

We have recently set up the church website to accept online donations. Just go to the website below and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You can also scan the QR code, right..

<https://bgpresdonate.cloverdonations.com/online-donations/>



**Our church Elders:** Karol Ahmed, Mark Bigler, Pam Bratcher, David Coverdale, Mary Evans, Rob Hale, Matt Hunt, Mike Kanan, John Kernohan, Stuart Kernohan, Tim Leigh, Nancy Moore, Pamela Napier, David Sears, and David Thomison. **Our church Deacons:** Rider Allen, Sally Calkins, Judy Clark, Rocky Cooper, Shannon Dyche, Ray Elms, Cathey Green, Jean Harris, Linda Leigh, Tom MacMillin, Debbie Morse, David Muffett, Teri Polen, Charlotte Prow, Ken Royse, Susan Thomison, and Debbie Trickey.

***The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101***

270-843-4707 • [www.bgpres.org](http://www.bgpres.org)

## *Announcements*

**USHERS:** The Franklin, Howard, and Hulan families

**LAY READER:** Judy Clark

**MEDIA PERSONNEL:** Barbara Solberg-Hale and Matt Hunt

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS:** Alisia Mosley and Kimberly Watkins

**LIBRARIAN:** Arnie Petrus, [arfranpe@msn.com](mailto:arfranpe@msn.com)

**CHILDREN'S MUSIC:** Ellie Osborne

**LECTIONARY FOR NEXT SUNDAY, March 31:** Joshua 5:9–12; Psalm 322; Corinthians 5:16–21; Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32.

**DEACON OF THE WEEK** this week will be Linda Leigh. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

### **TODAY:**

**HELP US BE GOOD STEWARDS!** We enjoy good food and fellowship during our Wednesday meals in Lent (and Advent). We ask for your RSVP so enough food is prepared. If a reservation is made, but the individual(s) do not come or are not able to attend, the church has to pay for the food that was prepared. Please let us know if you can't come. Paying for a missed meal will also help us keep our costs within budget. Thank you for helping us!

**OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS** met with Elders this morning in Fellowship Hall for a special breakfast and time of conversation about their statements of faith. You will have a chance to meet and greet them on Easter Sunday.

**3 CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION** will be next Sunday March 31 during worship. Bring your coins, bills, checks as the big cans are passed through the pews. Our children and youth will collect this offering. One third stays to benefit our Food Pantry (which has seen heavy demand steadily all winter) and the remainder goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program. We are grateful for all your gifts! (Buck in a Basket will **not** be collected next Sunday.)

**WHAT ARE OUR CHILDREN LEARNING?** Our preschool group heard about the Last Supper in Matthew 26:17-30. Because some of our teachers were with our confirmation class, all elementary met together in Godly Play to hear and respond to The Temptation of Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11. Please read the stories at home with your children and talk about what God wants them (and you) to learn.

**WE WANT TO GIVE A MASSIVE THANK YOU** to everyone who helped, donated and contributed to our Potato Party this past Sunday we raised \$685 toward our youth trips for the summer which is greatly appreciated.

### **COMING UP:**

**OUR ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** is Saturday April 13, 10:30am. We need individually wrapped candies. Please drop off in the office for Leslee or David by April 7.

**BUCK IN A BASKET** collection for March will benefit our Christmas Market by offsetting cost of publicity. Mark the date - December 7 is our next Market! We are grateful for your ongoing generosity.

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN DINNER** March 27. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm, with our devotional time beginning at 6:05pm. RSVPs required for dinner by Tuesday noon each week. This week's menu: Chicken & Rice Soup, Pimiento Cheese grilled on Whole Wheat bread, pickles, lettuce, tomato, Banana Pudding. \$8 adults, \$5 child/youth, \$20 family maximum.

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR LENT:** Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday April 13, 10:30am, 1740 Greenview Lane. Holy Week (April 15-19) Weekdays at Noon, worship and lunch. We host on Tuesday April 16. Thursday April 18 Maundy Thursday 6:00pm (dinner and worship are integrated). Good Friday Worship Noon, April 19. Easter Morning: 7:30am Sunrise Service, 8:30-10:00am Breakfast (\$6), 10:30am Worship, Reception for Confirmation Class following worship.

## **Calendar**

### **Sunday, March 24**

8:30 a.m. Fellowship  
9:00 a.m. Children's Music  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Confirmation B'fast  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Missions  
5:30 p.m. Youth Group

### **Monday, March 25**

5:00 p.m. Round Table Pulpit

### **Tuesday, March 26**

11:00 a.m. Special Care  
2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, March 27**

5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner  
6:05 p.m. Lenten Worship  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### **Saturday, March 30**

8:00 a.m. Cecelia Memorial's  
Day of Giving

**MAY 5TH IS OUR TACO BAR** youth Fundraiser - Please come along for some food and fellowship; this event will help fundraise for our youth summer trips. If you would like to donate food sign up here or speak to David Clarke: <https://perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=VAQX7765&v=6ecc47c647>

**RESERVATIONS FOR OUR 200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER** (Sunday April 14, 5:30pm at La Gala) are **required** by April 1. You may make your reservation through our website (<https://bgpres.org/celebrating-our-200th>) or by calling or emailing the office. All monies due must be paid before April 14, no money will be taken at the dinner. \$25 adults, \$15 under 18, \$70 family maximum.

**BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED** Presbyterian Women of Western Kentucky Presbytery Spring Gathering: **Save the Date** - Thursday, April 11, 2019; **Place:** The Presbyterian Church of Henderson, 100 South Main Street, Henderson, Kentucky; **Time:** 9:30 Registration; 10:00 Opening Activities; **Lunch:** \$5.00.

**OTHER NEWS:**

**WOW!!!** Toni Stahl is turning 100! The family invites our members to visit at an open house reception. If you can, please stop by and wish her a Happy 100th, Sunday March 31, anytime between 2:00pm to 5:00pm at the home of Bill and Sandra Laughlin, 3114 Richland Church Road, Morgantown, KY 42261 (approx. 18 miles from downtown). No gifts. 650-799-7757. Birthday cards may be sent to Toni as well! We all want to wish her a very happy birthday!

**THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A FREE MEAL.** Help needed with set up and clean up each week for our Lenten Meals. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aa9ab2ca7f49-lenten> is the place to go to sign up - and if you help, YOU EAT FREE! Questions? See Leslee Kirkconnell.

**CELEBRATING KINDNESS** We are so close to 200 acts of kindness! Don't forget to update the poster with a sticker to represent your acts of kindness. Do this weekly and let's see how many we can collect by April 14! You can also submit your act of kindness in writing and place it in one of the three red baskets (10th Street entrance, narthex, or at the elevator by the fireplace).

**SPRING CLEANING TIME!** If you have brought a dish to the kitchen for any purpose and have not reclaimed it, NOW IS THE TIME. We have an assortment of items on a table in Fellowship Hall. Please check out what's there and take what is yours. Anything left after March 28 will be donated to the Cecelia Give Away.

**CECELIA MEMORIAL CHURCH** is preparing for their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Giveaway, to be held on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. They are collecting items now for the giveaway. You may call Lovelyn Williams for information on how to donate (or what items) at 619-368-2103. Any large or bulk items will need to be taken to Cecelia directly.

**A REQUEST FROM HOTEL, INC.** HOTEL, INC. has noted an increasing need for soap (family size hand and laundry) and hygiene products. There are many requests but few supplies available. If any in the congregation can help with that need, please bring items to the church and leave with the office staff. Thank you!