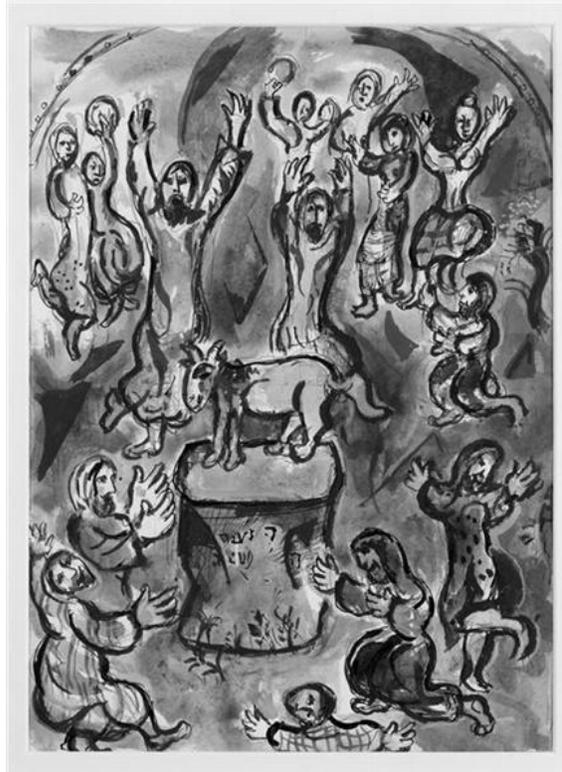


They made a calf
in Horeb and
worshipped a
molten image. The
exchanged the
glory of God for
the image of an ox
that eats grass.
They forgot God,
their savior, who
had done great
things in Egypt,
wondrous works in
the land of Ham,
and terrible things
by the Red Sea.
Psalm 106:19-22



The Adoration of the Golden Calf, Marc Chagall, 1966

Service for the Lord's Day

March 31, 2019
The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Gathering Around the Word

Gathering Music

Mike Kanan

Striking of the Hour

Welcome

Prelude

*O God, Thou Faithful God
Fanfare and Chorale*

arr. Wilbur Held

We Rise in Spirit and in Body

Call to Worship

How loving and patient is God!

Even when we fail God, the Lord never fails to love and care for us.

We seem unable to trust God, unwilling to obey. In our apathy, our self-concern, or the pursuit of foolish goals and ambitions, we show our weakness.

And yet God never ceases to pursue us, to draw us back into the circle of love, and to carry out great purposes for us!

Let us praise God today!

Let us pray that God will find pleasure in our worship!

(Psalm 106, adapted)

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

A new day.
A new beginning.
A better future.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession (Responsive)

Creator God, your generosity has brought us the gift of a new day.

Help us to leave yesterday behind, and not to covet what tomorrow may bring, but to accept today's possibilities thankfully and gladly.

Redeeming God, your love brings us the gift of a new beginning.

When we have turned away from you, and have been carried away by the empty allures of temptation and by the deceits of our own sinful nature, we pray to be forgiven. Take from us the burden of our wrong-doing, which we can no longer carry, so that we may be free again.

Sustaining God, your power brings us the prospect of a better future.

When we feel that we are losing hope, or believe that our efforts at good are futile, let us see the image of your resurrection, and let that sign of wonderful love be our source of strength.

Silence is observed for Personal Confession

Declaration of Good News

Response Hymn

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

STUTTGART

*Far as east from west is distant,
God has put away our sin
Like the pity of a father
Has the Lord's compassion been.*

Passing of the Peace

God in Christ has commissioned us with the message of reconciliation.

Hearing the Word

All may sit

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading (Responsive)

Exodus 31:18-33:10

The Sad Episode of the Molten Calf

When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD." So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.' "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

The People are
impatient along the
way.

Anthem

In the Land of the Living

Philip J. Stopford

Waiting for God includes being ready when the call comes.

All Stand

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:1-14, selected verses

Parable of the Marriage Feast

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

All Sit

Sermon

It’s A Long Way to the Promised Land

Matthew Covington

All Stand

Response Hymn 774

There Is Now A New Creation

STUTTGART

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

Today our children and youth will come around with the cans to collect 3 Cents a Meal coins, bills and checks.

Offertory

Jesus, Lover of My Soul
Quoting Hymn Tune Aberystwyth

arr. Wilbur Held

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Bearing and Following the Word into the Created World

Closing Hymn 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

Benediction

Postlude

Third Organ Sonata
Adagio Molto

Alexandre Guilmant

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 Royses, Susan Thomison, and Debbie

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

270-843-4707 • www.bgpres.org

Announcements

USHERS: The Franklin, Howard, and Hulan families

LAY READER: John Fitts

MEDIA PERSONNEL: Barbara Solberg-Hale and Matt Hunt

NURSERY ATTENDANTS: Alisia Mosley and Kimberly Watkins

LIBRARIAN: Arnie Petrus, arfranpe@msn.com

CHILDREN'S MUSIC: Ellie Osborne

LECTIONARY FOR NEXT SUNDAY, April 7: Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b–14; John 12:1–8.

DEACONS OF THE WEEK this week will be Susan Thomison and Teri Polen. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

TODAY:

WHAT ARE OUR CHILDREN LEARNING? Our preschool group learned about Jesus praying in the Garden from Matthew 26:31-58. Elementary students (4-5th) Growing in Grace and Gratitude studied the Parable of the Lost Sheep from Luke 15:1-10. Godly Play (K-3rd) heard from Matthew 8 about Jesus Healing a Man. Please read the stories at home with your children and talk about what God wants them (and you) to learn.

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.

3 CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION is today during worship. Our children and youth will collect this offering in the big cans. 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.

A ROUND TABLE PULPIT continues on Monday evenings, 5:00pm. Come read and study the scriptures for the next Sunday - enhance your biblical knowledge and possibly help shape the sermon. The Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington leads.

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.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN DINNER April 3. Dinner is 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: Sliced Turkey, Swiss Cheese, Sliced Granny Smith Apple on Cranberry Walnut bread with Basil aioli, pasta salad, Ambrosia. \$8 adults, \$5 child/youth, \$20 family maximum.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS FOR LENT: 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.

COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE MEMBERS perform in WKU Opera with music direction by Dr. Wayne Pope: Two comic one-act operas at WKU: Haydn's *La Canterina* and Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*; April 4, 5, & 6 at 8:00 p.m. CST; April 7 at 3:00 p.m. CST, Russell Miller Theatre. Tickets \$20.00 (Tax included), Student/Senior (62+) \$16.00 (Tax included) For tickets visit wku.showare.com or call WKU Fine Arts Box Office M-F, noon to 4, at (270) 745-3121.

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>

Calendar

Sunday, March 31

8:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:00 a.m. Children's Music
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, April 1

11:00 a.m. Circle 3
5:00 p.m. Round Table Pulpit

Tuesday, April 2

11:00 a.m. Special Care
2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
7:00 p.m. Deacons

Wednesday, April 3

10:00 a.m. Circle 6
5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner
6:05 p.m. Lenten Worship
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

CIRCLES CIRCLE 3 will meet on Monday, April 1st at 11:00am at Village Manor. CIRCLE 6 will meet on Wednesday, April 3 at 10:00am at the home of Mary Lucas (305 W. Promenade; this is a date change). Visitors are welcome, and please call Betty Jo Beard for transportation (270-843-8848) or Mary Lucas for directions (270-842-5849).

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:

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.

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.

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.

CECELIA MEMORIAL CHURCH is preparing for their 4th Annual Spring Giveaway. The date has been moved to Saturday, **April 13th**. 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. Many items area available from the Dollar store! Thank you!

THE FOOD PANTRY needs dry beans, white rice, peanut butter, soup, canned fruit/vegetables (easy open cans as possible, NO green beans-we have plenty). Donations may be left in the drawers under the stairs marked 'Food Pantry.'