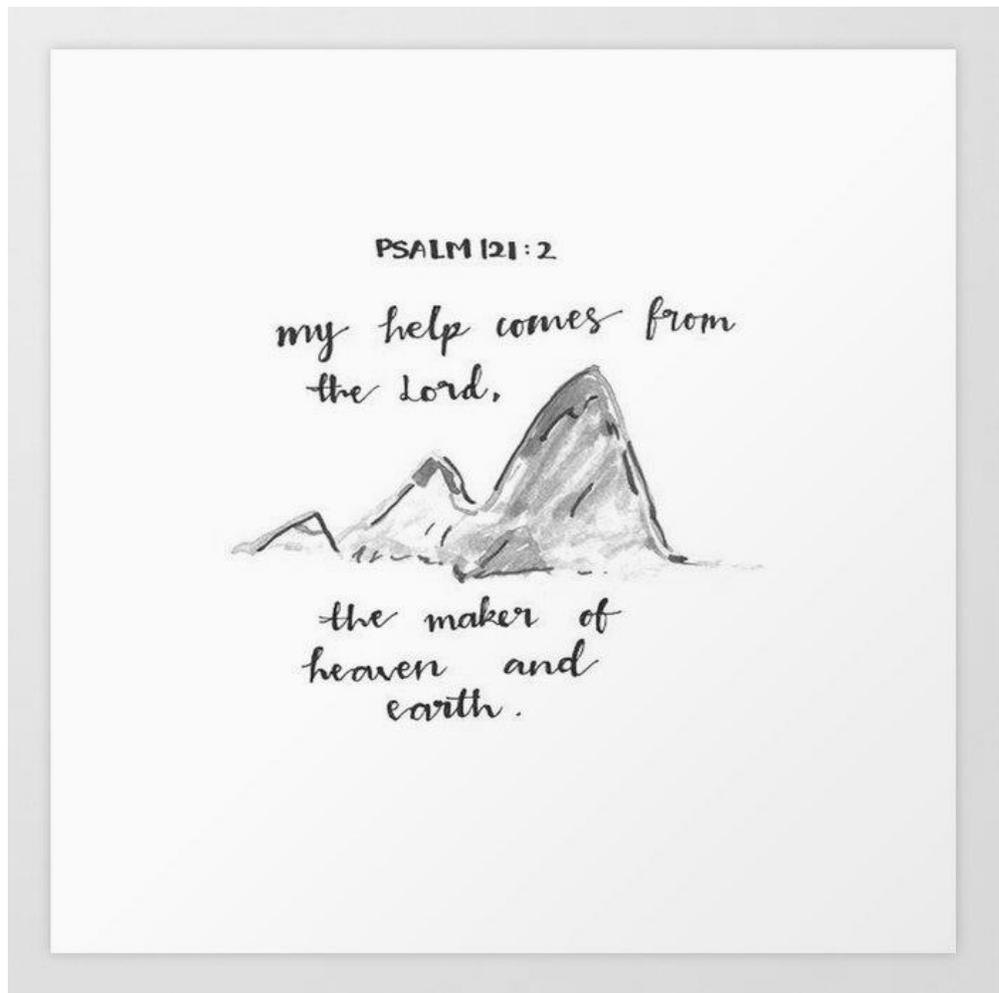


There is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world that is not intended to make us rejoice.

**John Calvin**



*The Second Sunday of Lent  
Service for the Lord's Day  
March 8, 2020*

*Gathering Around the Word*

**Gathering Music**

Mike Kanan

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

*Voluntary on Hymn Tune ABRIDGE*

Eric Thiman

*Be Thou my guardian and my guide, And hear me when I call;  
Let not my slippery footsteps slide, And hold me lest I fall.*

In Christ, all things are reconciled to God. Christ has made this peace by the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:20

*We Rise in Spirit and in Body*

**Call To Worship**

People of God, let us declare the supremacy of Christ!

**He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation.**

In him, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

**In him were all things created, in heaven and on earth.**

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**He is the head of the body, the church.**

Christ calls the church to worship today.

**Let us worship God.**

Colossians 1:15-20

**Call to Confession**

Worship begins with a “penitential order.” We must confess our sins, and settle things with God before we can approach God’s Word to us in the scriptures.

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession** (*Unison*)

**Gracious God, we come in need of forgiveness and grace.**

**We recall the mistakes we have made. We remember our failings. We are dust, and unable to lift ourselves from dust. And yet, in your mercy we have hope.**

**Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us in your repair of all things. In every awareness of our sin, give us an awareness of your saving loveliness, in the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

*Silence for personal confession*

**Declaration of Good News****Response Hymn 108**      *Of the Father’s Love Begotten*      DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Of the Fa-ther’s love be-got-ten, ere the worlds be-gan to be,  
He is Al-pha and O-meg-a; he the source, the end-ing he,  
Of the things that are, that ha--ve been and that future years shall see,  
Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!*

These words date to the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Consider the marvel of God’s gift to us in Jesus Christ.

**Passing of the Peace**

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

***Hearing the Word***

*All Sit*

**Prayer for Illumination****Psalter Reading**

Psalm 121

**A Song To Sing When Pilgrims Ascend the Hill to Jerusalem**

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

**My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

**He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

**The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.**

**Anthem**

*Praise God! Sing All Ye Heavens*

W.A. Mozart/arr. Hal H. Hopson

We might imagine this psalm as a call-and-response spoken in cadence as a group of pilgrims go to Jerusalem. One line introduces an idea; the next amplifies the thought.

*All Stand*

**Gospel Reading**

John 3:1-3, 16-17

**Jesus the Presence of God  
God So Loved the World**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Jesus’ nighttime conversation with a Pharisee includes the verse some people call “the Gospel in a nutshell,” John 3:16

*All Sit*

**Sermon**

*The Risk of Love*

Matthew Covington

## *Responding to the Word*

*All Stand*

**Response Hymn 309**

*Come, Great God of All the Ages*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

**Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed  
Contemporary

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same  
essence as the Father.**

**Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was  
crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again,  
according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will  
never end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and  
the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the  
prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to  
come. Amen.**

*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.**

**The Offering**

**Offertory**

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

James Biery

*All Stand*

**Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication**

*Bearing the Word into the Created World*

*All Stand*

**Closing Hymn 370**

*This Is My Father's World*

TERRA BEATA

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Raymond Haan

\*\*\*\*\*

The Nicene Creed was the first formally approved statement of doctrine in the Christian church.

It developed from the work of the Council of Nicaea, in 325 C.E. and Constantinople in 381.

The "Buck in a Basket" offering this month will assist in purchasing items for clean up buckets to be sent to areas that have suffered disaster.

***The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101***  
270-843-4707 • [www.bgpres.org](http://www.bgpres.org)

*WELCOME VISITORS! We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out. Ushers will be standing by to help you find the information. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by ministers, officers, and congregation.*

**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/>



***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>Director of Christian Education</i>	<i>Leslee Kirkconnell</i>
<i>Youth Ministry Intern</i>	<i>David Clarke</i>
<i>Financial Administrator</i>	<i>Terry Johnson</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Steve Moore</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Cheryl Gregory</i>
<i>Director, Preschool Learning Center</i>	<i>Jenni Meredith</i>
<i>Children's Music</i>	<i>Heather Kirkconnell</i>
<i>Custodian</i>	<i>Cedric Whitney</i>
<i>Sunday Sexton</i>	<i>Barbara Solberg-Hale</i>
<i>Clerk of Session</i>	<i>Tim Leigh</i>

Our church Elders: Karol Ahmed, Mark Bigler, Pam Bratcher, Mary Evans, Mike Kanan, John Kernohan, Jean Harris, Wayne Hendrix, Tim Leigh, Nathan Love, Nancy Moore, Mike Morse, Pamela Napier, Bud Schlinker, and David Sears. Our church Deacons: Angie Alexieff, Rider Allen, Rob Byrd, Sally Calkins, Judy Clark, Shannon Dyche, Ray Elms, Kim Ferguson, Kathleen Gildersleeve, Cathey Green, Linda Leigh, Debbie Morse, David Muffett, Annette Parkerson, Teri Polen, Charlotte Prow, Ken Royse, Susan Thomison and Judy Whitson.

## *Announcements*

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

**LAY READER:** Buzz English

**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)

**LECTIONARY FOR NEXT SUNDAY, March 15:** Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42.

### **TODAY:**

**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.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL GUIDES** are available outside the office. Grow your faith while you learn more about Matthew 25.

**WE CONTINUE OUR LENTEN STUDY OF THE MATTHEW 25 INVITATION.** Today we continued the discussion about systemic poverty and how we can work to end it. Our next two weeks will be focused on Church Vitality (in the Conference Room).

**JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY WORSHIP EACH WEEK DURING LENT.** 6:05pm in the Sanctuary (NO meal).

### **THE SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING FOR JANUARY – MARCH**

will be dedicated for our Youth to assemble Clean Up Buckets. These buckets, used by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Church World Service, help in times of disaster with some basic supplies to get started with clean up efforts. Barbara Solberg-Hale is leading. The cost of a clean up bucket is around \$75, and dollars donated will allow the youth to purchase the necessary items. Your generosity is much appreciated!

**ROOM IN THE INN** concludes this week! Help is needed in some areas; see the sign-up sheets in the 10th Ave Lobby. Many thanks to all who have helped with hospitality - setting up, visiting over dinner, cooking (and especially to all who made casseroles in December - the extras from our Market have kept our guests well fed all season!); innkeeping and more. This is a volunteer intensive project and everyone who helped is so very appreciated!

**CHILDREN'S MUSIC MEETS EACH WEEK.** Every Sunday, 9:00am in the Bell Room (across from the elevator). All Kindergarten-6th Grade students are included and new voices are ALWAYS welcome.

**BUCK IN A BASKET FOR MARCH** will help our Food Pantry. Even with your generous donations of dry goods, we always need funds to purchase canned goods and more. Thank you for your continued generosity!

**GROWING AND LEARNING:** Each week is an opportunity to grow in faith - and families are key to children's faith. During the Sunday School hour, our children and youth attend class to hear the Bible and learn to apply it to their lives. Parents can follow up and continue learning at home!

**Preschoolers** listened while Jesus taught in Matthew 5:1-9. **Kindergarten - 3rd grade students** in Godly Play heard about Jesus as a boy in the temple from Luke 2. Sowing seeds from Matthew 13 is what **4th and 5th Graders** learned. **READ** the stories at home and ask your children what they heard. Wonder together what God wants you to know and do because of these stories. If you need a good storybook, ask Leslee or visit our Children's Library-we have a good selection. Especially with younger children, a good Bible storybook is important!

### **COMING UP:**

**COFFEE ORDERS** Fair Trade Coffee sales will take place next Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at church. Come prepared to order!

**BIBLE STUDY TOGETHER.** We are planning to launch some small groups as well as a closed Facebook group for those involved in reading through the Bible. Come to the Fellowship Hall today at 11:30 for a brief meeting to help us get organized. See Mary Evans or Leslee Kirkconnell with questions. (And if you aren't reading through the Bible yet, it is NEVER too late to start!)

## **Calendar**

### **Sunday, March 8**

8:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship  
9:00 a.m. Children's Music  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Christian Ed. Ministry  
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

### **Monday, March 9**

11:30 a.m. Circle 9  
5:00 p.m. Round Table Pulpit

### **Tuesday, March 10**

11:00 a.m. Special Care  
2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Sunny 16 Camera Club  
7:00 p.m. Evening Circle

### **Wednesday, March 11**

9:15 a.m. Wed. Morning Circle  
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
6:05 p.m. Lenten Worship

### **Thursday, March 12**

6:00 p.m. Room in the Inn

### **Saturday, March 14**

10:00 a.m. Handbells Workshop

**CIRCLES CIRCLE 9** will meet on Monday, March 9th at the home of Sandy Franklin (1740 Greenview Lane) 11:30am. Please note the location change. The **WEDNESDAY MORNING CIRCLE** will meet on Wednesday, March 11th at 9:15am in the youth room.

**HANDBELL WORKSHOP** - Saturday March 14, 10:00-11:30am in the Bell Room (across from elevator). For **YOUTH AND ADULTS** - any who want to see what ringing bells might be like. No experience required and you don't need to be able to read music either. Questions? See Heather Kirkconnell. **BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS** will resume 4:30-5:00pm on Sundays, beginning March 15, in preparation for Easter.

**THREE CENTS A MEAL** returns Sunday March 29. Our children and youth will come around with the cans to collect your coins, bills and checks. One third of your gifts stay to benefit our Food Pantry, which has a steady demand that has been increasing. The remainder goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

**OTHER NEWS:**

**PLC UPDATE** We are still collecting donations for a love offering for Dana, who has begun her new work as Executive Director of the Literacy Center in Franklin, KY. Please mark your memo 'Dana Love Gift.'

**HELP FOR SOMEONE WE HOLD AS DEAR** Shannon Dyche has been a “pillar of the church,” and a refreshing personality. She plans to join her husband Reg in Rochester, New York, where he has found work. Please consider a donation to the Presbyterian Church to help Shannon defer the costs of her move.

**INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY NEEDED** for our Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday April 11). Please bring to the office for David or Leslee.

**LIBRARY** During Month of March, books not usable to the Church Library and/or the outside library will be displayed on the double window in Fellowship Hall. Please take any you can use. Those not taken will be donated to City Library for their book sales.

**THE CURRENT ART EXHIBIT** in the Fellowship Hall is from Arts for All KY. It is a non-profit organization that sends a call each year to Kentucky Schools requesting art by disabled students from grades K–12. Selected work is placed in a traveling exhibition throughout the state. The purpose of Arts for All is to encourage art and creativity among the state's most vulnerable students. Works may be purchased with a \$50.00 donation to the program. For more information contact Delaire Rowe at 270-762-0023 or [email programs@artsforallky.org](mailto:programs@artsforallky.org).