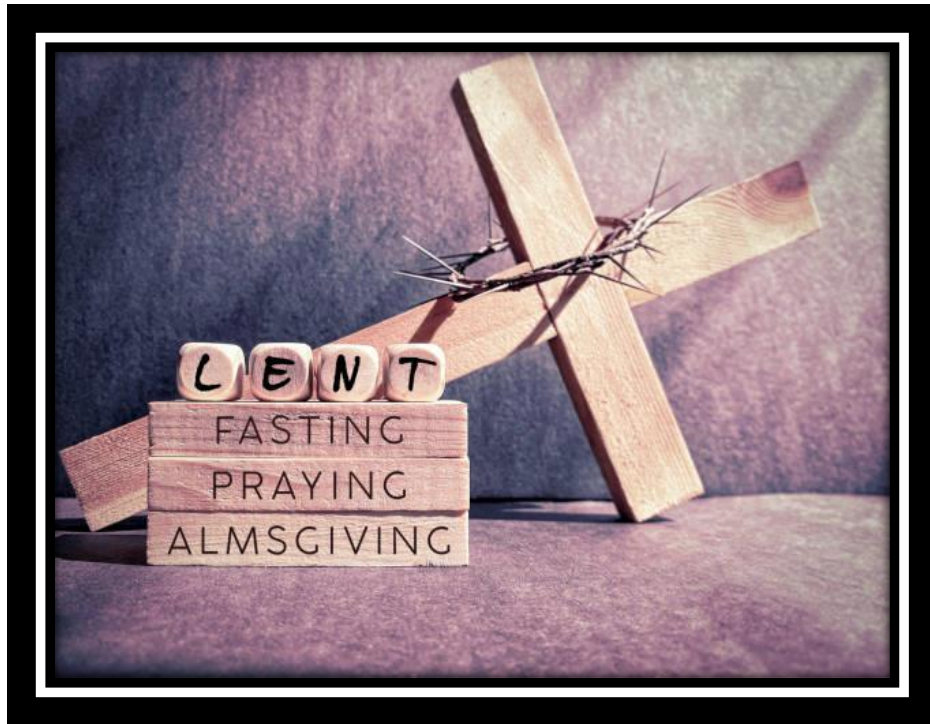


Presbyterian Church of Easton



Our Purpose is
“To live and love like Christ”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Johnson.....Worship Leader
Mr. Robert Huntington.....Director of Music
Mrs. Karen Newton Office Administrator

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTON

Order of Morning Worship

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024

10:00 A.M.

THE CHURCH GATHERS

WORDS OF GREETING

LITURGIST: From fishing fleets and busy harbors, God gathers simple sailors. When we least expect it, Christ gathers us in and calls us to follow him. Let us gather and answer Christ's call.

Welcome to the Presbyterian Church of Easton, where our purpose is to live and love like Christ. I am Elaine Young, and on behalf of the officers, staff, and members of the Presbyterian Church of Easton, I welcome you to this morning's worship. I want to extend a special welcome to those who are visiting with us this morning. If you have questions about the programs or mission of PCE, you may talk with the pastor, officers, or other members of the church. I invite you to read all the announcements in the bulletin and call special attention to...

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

LITURGIST: Let us pray: Good and gracious God, Creator of earth and sky, we praise you for your faithfulness and loving kindness throughout all generations, for your promise of grace, for your compassion and redemption revealed to us in Christ Jesus.

Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me,
Now with You I will seek other seas.

You know that I own so little,
In my boat there's no money nor weapons,
You'll only find there my nets and labor. *Refrain*

You need the caring of my hands.
Through my tiredness, may others find resting.
You need a love that just goes on loving. *Refrain*
You, who have fished other oceans,
Ever longed for by soul that are waiting,
My dear and good friend, as thus You call me. *Refrain*

Composed by Cesareo Gabarain (PESCADOR DE HOMBRE).

Published by Oregon Catholic Press, 1979 / 1987.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

LITURGIST: In our scripture passage for today, we will read about Jesus calling Peter to be a disciple. In the story, Peter is in the presence of the Divine for quite some time before he realizes it. Jesus crawls into Peter's boat. He tells him to head toward deep water. Together, they let the nets down. It is only when the boat threatens to sink, due to the extreme abundance of fish, that Peter turns to Jesus and truly sees who's in his boat.

Sometimes we miss what's right in front of us. Fortunately, Christ keeps crawling into our boats anyhow. So, join me in the prayer of

confession, not out of fear, but out of a desire to finally see who's right in front of us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Loving God, you call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow you, and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter. Repeatedly, we stand slack jawed and are surprised to find you in our midst. Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own. Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves. Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat. Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LITURGIST: Friends, Peter didn't exactly make a good first impression when Jesus got into his boat. He questioned dropping his nets, as they hadn't caught any fish all night. He was oblivious to who Christ was for quite some time, and once he realized the Divinity standing in his boat, he quickly deemed himself unworthy. And even still, Jesus called Peter a disciple and a friend. Church family, hear and believe this good news: You can make a thousand

bad impressions. You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes, and assume you know better. And *even still*, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart.

ALL: This is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in that. Amen.

***CONTRITION** *You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy* **SEE SLIDES**

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

*Traditional liturgical text, arr. Richard Wetzel (WAYFARING STRANGER).
Published by Westminster John Knox Press, 1970, 1972.
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THE PEACE

LITURGIST: As God has given us peace through Christ, so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other. **(no contact)**

The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LITURGIST: Let us pray for illumination:

Creator God, you hear everything. You hear the rush of the wind through the trees. You hear a baby's first cry. You hear the crickets chirping, our silent prayers, and laughter around tables.

You hear it all! We don't need that same capacity, but we do need to hear your Word, O God, for we cannot live on bread alone. So today we pray, give us the ability to truly listen. Give us the ability to listen with our hearts, and may the truths revealed in your scripture today change us. With hearts full of gratitude, we pray, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 25: 1-10

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord; do not remember my sin.

LITURGIST: Listen for and to the word of God.

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

⁸Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

LITURGIST: The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Will Lift Up My Soul

CHOIR

Refrain:

I will lift up my soul, I will lift up my soul to the Lord.
I will lift up my soul to the Lord, O my God.

Make known to me Your paths,
O Lord, guide me in Your truth.
For you are my God, my Savior,
and I wait for You. (Refrain)

Remember, too, Your promises,
that You made of old.
Remember me, O Lord of mercy,
in love remember me. (Refrain)

And upright is the Lord, my God,
sinners find the way.
Teaching them, he leads the humble.
Steadfast is His love. (Refrain)

*Composed by Robert Huntington.
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SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 5: 1-11

Jesus calls a few Galilean fishermen to follow him.

REV. JOHNSON: Listen for and to the word of God.

¹ Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God,

² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.

³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.”

⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.

⁷ So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”

⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken;

¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”

¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

REV. JOHNSON: The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE “Jesus Sought Me” REV. DR. BARBARA JOHNSON

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

REV. JOHNSON: I believe in a God of abundance -

ALL: a God who sees possibilities where I cannot, and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.

REV. JOHNSON: I believe in a God who comforts -

ALL: a God who says, “Do not be afraid;” a God who joins me in life’s deep waters.

REV. JOHNSON: I believe in a God who invites -

ALL: a God who says, “Follow me,” and, “You will be fishers of people.”

REV. JOHNSON: I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently -

ALL: a God of second chances and boundless mercy, a God who calls us by name. We believe. Help our unbelief.

***HYMN** *Jesus Calls Us*

SEE SLIDES

Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth
saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,

from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thy obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.

Composed by Cecil Alexander, William Jude (GALILEE).

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INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* PH #356, st. 2

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me!
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
To all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory

There shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.

*Composed by John Bode, Arthur Mann (ANGEL'S STORY).
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***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE** *Voluntary*

SOS

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Today's flowers were given by Donna Barker, in loving memory of George Raymond Barker.

We welcome and thank our liturgist, Elaine Young, for leading us this Sunday morning.