

*Sunday Worship
February 25, 2024
Draw near to God
for God is waiting for you.*

* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able
italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

Lent calls us to journey with God.

Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Lord of presence and power, be with us on this second step of our Lenten journey to the Cross. Help us to make a commitment of our lives, our spirits, our hearts to ministry in your name. Amen.

***HYMN #395** Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

1. Blessed Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you.
By your gospel true and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night, filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living come but by your gracious giving.

3. Glorious Lord, yourself impart, Light of Light, from God proceeding.
Touch our lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your church now raises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

Given a test on our faith, would we have a passing grade? Looking at our lives of discipleship, would we be considered good models for others? When we fail to trust God, we discover that we do indeed lead barren lives. Let us be honest as we stand before our God, and bring our confessions for forgiveness and hope.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENNESS

Guiding Lord, even though we hesitated on our Lenten journey; we vowed to come with you through all the trials and fears toward the Cross. Today we face the challenge which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you in service? We would like to think that we can do that, but we are aware of how many times we have turned away from service and instead focused on our own desires. Remind us again of the commitment you would have us give if we are to become disciples. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, up these steps toward the Cross. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING

... Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.

****GLORIA PATRI***

Glory be to the Father, 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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

****HYMN #726*** Will You Come and Follow Me

1. "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

2. "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"

3. "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoner free and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"

4. "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,

through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Mark 8:31-38

SERMON The WAY of the Cross

STATEMENT OF FAITH from *A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles and rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

****DOXOLOGY***

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

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION***

Covenant-keeping God, whose promise is rock solid; we offer our lives and these signs of our daily living not simply that bread might fill empty stomachs, but that, through the working of your Holy Spirit, empty lives may be filled, friendless, lonely lives find intimacy, depressed lives given hope. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION 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.

****HYMN #718*** Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

1. Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.

2. Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

3. Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and let your foolish pride be still;
the Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and calmly every danger brave:
it guide you to abundant life and leads to victory o'er the grave.

****BENEDICTION***

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

This week's carillon is in memory of Charles and Wayne Hurst. Charles was a faithful member of the choir and husband of Florence. Wayne was the son of Charles and Florence Hurst.

YOUTH GROUP: Tonight we will meet at Missi Dell'Orefice home at 6:30pm until 8pm. We will be cooking and packaging the soup for the Care for Friends. It's always a good time at Youth Group. Everyone in grades 7 – 12 are welcome and can always bring friends.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: Coins will be collected throughout the weeks leading up to Easter when we will take the final offering. At that time, additional donations other than coins will also be received. Fish boxes and jars are available on the table outside the sanctuary for those who wish to collect coins.

LENTEN MID-WEEK COMMUNION: A brief Communion service will be held each Wednesday at 11:30 AM here at the church. It's a great mid-week pause to connect with God during this time of contemplation. If you are able, plan to remain after the service for a brown bag lunch and fellowship.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: This week we are asking for the following items: Brown or wild rice, whole wheat couscous, & barley. Donations are to be placed in the wagon located in the vestibule.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: VBS will be held once again at Anchor Presbyterian Church on June 24-28, 9:00 – noon. Registration for those ages 3 yrs. – 6th grade can be made on <https://www.myvbs.org/Forestgrove/>. Teen helpers (7th – 12 grade) as well as adult leaders are needed. Please contact Pastor Su if you would like to help.

SUMMER CAMP AT JOHNSONBURG: Registration for summer camp programs at the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center at Johnsonburg is open. There are lots of great options for kids from 1st – 12th grade. Learn more at <https://www.campjburg.org/>. Forest Grove Church has a long-standing commitment to camping ministry by making camping available to all. Scholarships are always given for this powerful faith-nurturing experience. Let Pastor Su know if your child will be attending.

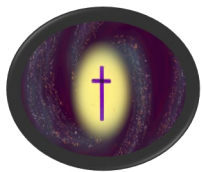
MARCH FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP: While we decorate socks to be donated to the Welcome Church in Philadelphia, we will enjoy a meal together. This month we welcome Anchor Church as our guest. Mark your calendar for Friday, March 1 we will meet at 6pm. Ham and Macaroni and cheese will be served. The theme is “Hawaiian Luau.” Check the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall to sign up and share a side dish for dinner.

Calendar: **February 25** 10:00 am Worship followed by Fellowship and Sunday School
4:00 pm Iglesia Pentecostal Asamblea De Dios Worship Service
February 26 9:30 am Bible Study
7:30 pm Deacon Meeting on Zoom
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 71 Meeting
February 27 7:00 pm Session Meeting on Zoom
February 28 11:30 am Lenten Mid-week Communion.
12:00 pm Bring your Brown bag lunch for Fellowship
March 1 6:00 pm Friday Night Fellowship – Hawaiian Night !

Elder of the month: Sharon Ruth **Deacon of the month:** Missi Dell’Orefice
Ushers: Bill and Peggy Mellinger **Fellowship:** Emilie Cullerton
Sunday school Teacher: Kim King

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari, Jim Turner, Violet Sanders,
Mary Lou Humlhanz, Pat Pizza, Kara Holton, Becky Schroeder,
Wes Schroeder, Eloise Hyndman, Don Huber



Church Staff
Susan Fall, Pastor
Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music
Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator
Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager

