

March 13, 2022
Second Sunday in Lent
Worship Order
9:30 AM
Supply Pastor: The Rev. Marcia Bell

+ GATHERING +

WELCOME

PRELUDE

A Gaelic Legend – T. Frederick H. Candlyn

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Siblings in Christ:

long ago, God laid the foundation of this place
in shale and sandstone, boulders and ringing rocks;
with the flowing water of the Perkiomen, Unami and Ridge Valley creeks.
The formation of this land
would later attract its people:
it fixed richness in the soil,
hornfels in Perkiomenville,
and nurtured wildlife with its forested tracts.
God gathers us in a place shaped by nature.

We are here.

In this place,
the Lenape people found plenty,
planting corn and hunting white-tailed deer,
until white settlers forced them to leave or disappear.
The Lenape shaped this place.
Broken treaties and erasure have too.
God gathers us in a place shaped by history.

We are here.

In this place, a Lutheran congregation,
that was once part of a union church,
purchased land for \$1 from Earl Henuber,
allowing for a new house of worship to be built.
Tied together by hope, by a sense of community and mission,
and by one baptism in Jesus Christ,
they broke ground for this church in 1957.
God gathers us in a place shaped by God's desire.

We are here.

In this place,
God has gathered us:
to marvel at God's power over creation;

to lament humanity's abuse of the earth and one another;
to remember our past;
to hope for our future.
This hope will not disappoint us,
because God is here.
God is here!

OPENING HYMN ELW 831 The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abr'ham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love -
"I Am the One I Am" - by earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

The God of Abr'ham praise! Your all-sufficient grace
shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways.
You deign to call me friend; you call yourself my God!
And you will save me to the end through Jesus' blood.

Your promise you have sworn; I on your oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.
I shall behold your face; I shall your pow'r adore,
and sing the wonders of your grace forever more.

Text: Thomas Olivers, based on the Yigdal, c. 14th cent.

Music: Jewish melody, arr. Meyer Lyon

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THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Beloved, as we gather in this place to worship,
we acknowledge that we are part of a complicated history.
**How can we bear the paradox of this place
as both a source of pride and a record of mistakes?**

Friends, here is the font.
**In the waters of baptism,
God cleansed us and claimed us.**
God binds God's word
to this abundant element
precisely to tell us
that there is no place
where we are apart from God's grace.
This reminder is everywhere:
It is in the waters of the
reservoir at Green Lane Park and the Macoby Creek.
It sprays from our showers.
It makes tea kettles whistle.
It is in our very cells.

So I invite you to make the sign of the cross,
on your brow or on your body.
As you do,
you proclaim what is true
everywhere and always:
God is here!
God is here! Amen!

BAPTISMAL HYMN OF PRAISE ACS 959 God of Promise, Let These Signs of Grace
Congregation sings refrain only

Refrain

God of prom - ise, let these signs of grace

kin - dle in our hearts a song of praise.

1 Life - giv - ing wa - ter soak - ing our dry - ness,

drown - ing our sin each day, mak - ing us new—

mer - cy come stream - ing from you. *Refrain*

Text: Paul Damico-Carper, b. 1981
Music: STELLAN, Paul Damico-Carper
Text and music © 2017 Paul Damico-Carper, admin. Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you are our Protector,
of whom should we be afraid?
In the shadow of the cross,
you have built a refuge for all
from the slings of sin and death.
You are the shelter that truly shields us.
Yours is the embrace that fully claims us.
You,
and nothing else,
are the stronghold of our life.
Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 517 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word

Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.

Text: Martin Luther, tr. Catherine Winkworth

Music: 1543

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GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out

demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Marcia Bell

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 608 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?

"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.

"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

LENTEN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, our Creator;
who gives us steadfast love, and shares with us our joy,
Our God sustains us in our weakness, and
empowers us with strength.
We trust God.**

**We follow Jesus Christ, God's Son.
His death is our victory, his resurrection is our hope;
in him the Word became flesh; in him we find forgiveness,
renewal from failure, reconciliation from brokenness,
and release from despair.
We are saved through Jesus.**

**We are guided by the Holy Spirit, God's presence in the world.
That same Spirit calls us to be the Church,
to celebrate love, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen.
We are empowered by that Spirit.**

**We are disciples, pilgrim people.
We joyfully covenant to walk together in love.
God is with us, in this place and wherever we go.
Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

MUSICAL OFFERING As the Deer – Martin Nystrom, arr. John F. Wilson
Cathy Texter, soprano, Kevin Schanely, tenor

c. 1984, and this arr. C. 1994 Maranatha Music
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SHARING OF OUR OFFERINGS

As we receive our musical offering, we invite you to share your offering in one of the baskets located throughout the sanctuary. May these gifts offered up in thanksgiving to God help spread the love of God into our community and world.

OFFERING PRAYER

God, there's nowhere we can go
where you aren't already waiting:
in the vineyard, in the grainfield,
in the places where we live and work,
and most especially at this table,

where your Son has promised to meet us;
where he is both Host and Meal.
Reveal yourself to us now.
Amen.

+ MEAL +

COMMUNION LITURGY

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Mighty Fortress, you are here...Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering this table, the cross, the empty grave,
we await his coming in glory
and proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts.
Holy Wisdom, pervade every corner of this place
and every crevice of our hearts.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Bring us at last with all the saints
to the stronghold of your new creation,
where we may meet your glory face to face.

To you, O God, Mighty Fortress, Mothering Hen, Sheltering Spirit,
be all worship and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OF COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, in this meal, you are present. Go with us into the world that this meal might unite us
to your work and your presence all around us. May we go with faith that you go alongside us.
In your Holy name we pray. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Go with the blessing of God.
Remember that this blessing follows you,
no matter the places
to which you are called.
Remember that this blessing waits for you,
even where you least expect to find it.
Be blessed in the name of God,
who inspires, inhabits, and ignites us,
today and every day.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 323 God Loved the World

God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save,
that all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives all sins that you have done,
and justified by Jesus' blood, your baptism grants the highest good.

All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

Text: 1791, tr. August Crull

Music: Edward Miller, adapt.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to see Christ in all the places you go.
Thanks be to God.

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Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Brian Allebach, Charles Krupp, Ann Brown Hager, David Mounts, Melissa Snyder, Sandy Umstead, David and Linda Kratzer, Leah Crater, Leanne Kratzer, Steve Keyser, Sydney Crossin, Kathy Reese, Paige Seasock, Peyton Seasock, Tal Umstead, Heidi Slook, Dorothy Rudolph, Mary Clayton, Michelle Baxter, Ruthie Jadick, Donna Derstine, Brian Derstine, Andrew Robison, Jeff Hart, Margaret Simon, Hailey Mientus, the Mientus family, Jeff Jadick, Loretta Diehl, Judy Ockenlaender, Heidi Guess, Ed Brown, Bruce Aldinger and Judith Hercek.

Mark your Calendar

Monday, Mar 14	7:30pm Council Meeting
Tuesday, Mar 15	7pm Lenten Small Group Experience
Wednesday, Mar 16	7pm Mid Week Worship @ New Goshenhoppen UCC
Saturday, Mar 19	9-1 Rise Up Against Hunger Event 9-11am Open Link Food Collection
Sunday, Mar 20	8:45am Faith Formation (age 3– grade 5) 9:30am Worship (and zoom)

Lenten Small Group Experience – Tuesdays at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Where Your Heart Is: An Illustrated Devotion Experience will include seven weeks of devotions for all ages with illustrations that are meant to be colored in and many opportunities to doodle and engage in fun and creative ways.

Our theme's inspiration comes from Jesus' teaching about storing treasures in his Sermon on the Mount. This Lent, we invite you to explore the many treasures you have in your life. Some are physical treasures we can touch, hold, store, and give. Some treasures are invisible, yet still greatly matter and guide our lives. By exploring Gospel passages about treasures and matters of the heart, we invite you to wonder more deeply about what kinds of treasure matter, why we store treasures, and the power these treasures have in our lives.

The small group will begin on Tuesday, March 1 and conclude on Tuesday, April 12. Crayons, markers and colored pencils will be provided.

Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Our mid-week Lenten worship will turn us toward God's abundance by focusing on five divine attributes of faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness and love. Join us for worship on the Wednesdays in Lent at 7PM.

March 16 – New Goshenhoppen UCC

March 23 – St. Mark's Lutheran

March 30 – Pennsburg UCC

April 6 – St. John's Lutheran

Worship will be held in-person at each of the host churches listed above. Worship will also be accessible virtually using whatever method the host church is currently employing for virtual worship.

Out of an abundance of caution, there will be no fellowship time following worship.

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event Saturday, March 19th

Three shifts are available - to allow for as many folks to participate, please only sign up for ONE packaging shift.

8:30-10 AM—Set Up Shift

10-11 AM—Meal Packaging Shift One

11:30-12:30 PM—Meal Packaging Shift Two

Sign up at: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/StJohnsGreenLane>

The Easter Eggstravaganza is ON!

Donations of store-bought, individually wrapped Easter candy that will fit into regular-sized plastic eggs are needed. Donation bins are in the narthex and parlor. Donations will be received thru Sunday, April 3. Thank you for supporting this outreach event!

Congregation-Wide Lenten Service Project

This Lent, St. John's will rally together to create Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief – **our goal for the Lenten season will be 250 kits.**

Instructions for what goes in a personal care kit and how to put it together can be found here:

<https://lwr.org/kits/personal-care-kits/instructions>

Personal Care Kits can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings starting March 20. You can also drop them off during Food Collection Drop Off times (Sat. April 2 and 16 from 9-11 AM).

Care Package Donations needed for our college students!

Help us send some love to our young adults!

Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b084fa8ad2caafd0-care1> to sign up for all the yummy treats we want to include. All donations are due back to church by Sunday, March 20th. Thank you for your generosity!

Quilting Workshop—The Upper Montgomery County Conference Spring Gathering
Saturday, March 19 9am @ Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe, PA

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 10 – Palm/Passion Sunday – 9:30 AM worship and Zoom

Worship will begin in the Fellowship Hall where we will receive our palm branches and then process into the sanctuary. The passion story will be shared throughout worship. Readers will be needed – watch the weekly email for a sign up link to participate as a reader.

Thursday, April 14 – Maundy Thursday with Communion

– 7:30 PM worship and Zoom

The disciples will strip the altar at the conclusion of worship

Friday, April 15 – Good Friday – 7:30 PM worship and Zoom

Our youth will lead worship this night as we hear the story of the crucifixion and move closer to the darkness of Jesus' death.

Sunday, April 17 – Easter Sunday – 9:30 AM worship and Zoom

A coffee social will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30-9:15 AM