

**McKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WORSHIP SERVICE**

2nd Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024

WE ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

"On Eagles Wings"

**Candice Holsinger, Organist
Arr. Joncas**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

OPENING PRAYER

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 139)**

(L) On this the first Sunday of our 40-day Lenten Journey, we invite you, O God, to search us – without restrictions - and know our hearts

(C) Test us and know our deepest thoughts

(L) Search us, our Lord, and see if there is any wicked way in us

(C) Lead us back to the way of everlasting Life

(L) Return us to Yourself, O God, for You are gracious

(C) You are merciful

(L) You are slow to anger, quick to relent

(C) You abound in steadfast love

(ALL) Search us, O Lord, and lead us deeper into You.

***HYMN**

"At the Name of Jesus" (Vv. 1 & 2)

No. 766, brown

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Romans 7:24 & Mark 8)**

Merciful Lord,

We confess that we have sinned against You and others.

We have denied the way you have chosen, the way of the cross. In doing so we have denied You.

We refuse to follow You into your suffering, avoiding it at all cost.

In our suffering, we turn from You to the world – in order to save ourselves.

In the suffering of others, we turn from them to ourselves - in order to preserve our lives.

We have failed to trust You and follow You through the cross into new life; choosing, instead, an existence marked by fear and self-preservation.

Wretched people that we are!

Who will rescue us from this body of death?

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (Romans 7: 25a, *: 1-2)**

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus

has set us free from the law of sin and of death.

In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

(ALL) Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 813, brown

**Glory be 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

JOYS

Leader: "For (joy), Gracious God..."

All: "we give you thanks"

CONCERNS

Leader: "For (concern), Merciful Lord ..."

All: "hear our prayer."

Let's pray together 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please contact the church by email or phone with your prayer requests during the week.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Please welcome the children & youth to the front of the sanctuary.

ANTHEM

"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

(Chancel Choir)

Arr. Williams

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mark 8: 31-38

Mark 8: 31-38

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

SERMON

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Rev. Michael Stanton

**THE RESPONSE
WE COMMIT TO THE WORK OF GOD**

OFFERTORY

"You Are Mine"
(Duet: Kim Moore, Soprano and Barbara McDonough, Alto)
Arr. DeAngelis and Marcucci

***DOXOLOGY**

***HYMN**

"At the Name of Jesus" (Vv. 3, & 4)

No. 766, brown

THE EXIT

WE ENGAGE THE WORLD OF GOD

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Lead Me to Calvary"

Candice Holsinger, Organist
Arr. Kirkpatrick

**All those who are able, please stand"*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 25, 2024

FELLOWSHIP II:

Please join together for friendship and fellowship after today's service.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE, please contact the church office.

TAKE CARE, THE FLU AND COLD SEASON IS UPON US:

Please help keep everyone healthy. If you have a cold or flu, please consider joining us virtually or utilizing the masks available at the entrances. We all thank you.

ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS:

The Order forms for the Easter Flowers are available in the Chapel and at the church entrance. Please give your orders to Kim Moore or turn them in at the church office. DEADLINE is Sunday March 3, 2024.

REFRESH:

Join us for Refresh, a multigenerational gathering in the Church Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 6 starting at 6 PM. (dinner is provided) This is open to everyone, bring your friends!

HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES AND SOCKS:

We have been collecting hats, scarves, gloves and socks in all sizes, for our community for the winter. If you have any extras of these items please drop them off at the church office. Thank you.

EYEGASSES, HEARING AIDS:

Lions Club of White Oak is collecting old eyeglasses, hearing aids, and used, clean, non-labeled prescription bottles. If you would like to dispose of any of these items, please give them to Carol Lasch or drop them off at the church office.

POPCORN SALE:

The Mission Committee is having a popcorn sale in March. Orders can be made March 1 until March 31; all orders and money must be in by then. We will be available to take orders after Fellowship on Sundays.

The fundraiser is to help with the cost of making Welcome Bags for the Malawi/South Sudan visitors this May.

The popcorn will be distributed at church on May 5.

If anyone would like to help by selling popcorn, please let Joanna Stettmier or Carol Lasch know. It would be greatly welcomed.

MCKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor-Rev. Michael Stanton

Director of Music-Edward R. Moore

Organists- Millie Kistler, Candice Holsinger, & Faye D'Ippolito

Office/Financial Assistant- Robin Enright

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