

## **St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

301 West Penn Avenue, Robeson, PA 19551  
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org  
Worship 10:30am

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you're welcome here.*

Unless a grain of *wheat* falls  
into the earth and dies, it remains  
just a single grain; but if it dies, it



*bears much fruit.*

John 12:24, NRSV

***Welcome to  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Online Streaming Worship Service***

*May God's loving presence be very real to you,  
and may you receive strength and guidance today  
that will enable you to handle life's challenges.*

+++

**Sunday, March 21, 2021  
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

## We Gather

*We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God,  
and provide for one another our love, support, and care.*

### A TIME OF GATHERING

#### RINGING OF THE BELL

#### PRELUDE

*"I Will Arise"*  
Handbell Choir

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{To center your hearts and minds,  
you are invited to individually offer this prayer silently during or before the Prelude}*

### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP<sup>®</sup>

O God, as Jesus offered up prayers and supplications to you we cry out to you today. You know our losses and our fears. You understand our suffering and pain. We wish to see Jesus, to know the healing touch felt by so many. We want to hear a reassuring voice. We long to see a new day when evil is overcome and wrong cannot prevail. Lift us up and draw us to yourself as we worship in this hour. Equip us for our daily living as we seek to be true to your covenant with us. Amen.

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

vs 1 & 2

♩Blue # 539

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### \*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.  
ALL: Amen.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>®</sup>

Leader: God offers us the joy of salvation.  
Our brokenness can be healed and wholeness restored.  
People: **We are open to the new and right spirit God offers.  
We seek guidance for our daily living.**  
Leader: God's law will be written on our hearts.  
Our Creator claims us and forgives our faithlessness.  
People: **We are eager to know the God who loves us.  
We are ready to learn God's intention for us.**

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### **Virtual Worship Service**

Online: [Live Stream](#) at [www.sprucc.org](http://www.sprucc.org) - Live or Watch & Listen on [St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel](#) Later  
[Phone Stream](#) at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later  
[Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 104 401 368; Passcode: 301301 (or call 1-646-558-8656) - Live Only  
*If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or [Office@sprucc.org](mailto:Office@sprucc.org)*

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# 539 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

*Through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. Ephesians 3:12*

> 1. My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
 > 2. May Thy rich grace in - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,  
 3. While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,  
 4. When ends life's pass - ing dream, When death's cold, threat - ening stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, Take all my  
 My zeal in - spire; As Thou hast died for me, O may my  
 Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's  
 Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -

guilt a - way, O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!  
 love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!  
 tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.  
 trust re - move; O lift me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

*Optional transition to "My Hope Is in the Lord"*

TEXT: Ray Palmer  
MUSIC: Lowell Mason

OLIVET  
6.6.4.6.6.6.4

MY FAITH, MY HOPE - A Worship Sequence

Compilation © Copyright 1997 by Integrity's Hosanna! Music and Word Music (a div. of WORD MUSIC). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## We Repent

*This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.*

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION<sup>®</sup> (Leader)

The doubts and inattention that mark our response to God summon us now to confess our sin. The promises of God which we have ignored draw us back to consider the covenant God offers. The obedience of Jesus can inspire in us a reverent submission to God's will. Let us seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN<sup>®</sup> (Unison)

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. We know more of our own transgression than we have been willing to admit, even to ourselves. We cannot escape from the sin that clings so closely. By our actions and our neglect, we have done what is evil in your sight. May your judgement help us to face the truth about ourselves. Then wash away the stain of our iniquity. Create in us clean hearts, and renew our spirits. We are ready for a new life. Amen.**

### \*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

*{A time to silently offer our personal prayers of confession}*

### \*PRAYER FOR MERCY

*"Kyrie"*

♪ Red # 518

Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**People (*sung*): Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
Leader (*spoken*): Christ, have mercy upon us.  
**People (*sung*): Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Leader (*spoken*): Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**People (*sung*): Lord, have mercy upon us.**

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### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>®</sup> (Leader)

We are welcomed into God's redeeming presence. We are children of our Creator who loves us. We are brothers and sisters of Jesus, who was obedient to God and faithful to the law of love, even in the face of the cross. Through suffering, Christ became the source of eternal salvation for us, realized when we embrace the covenant in truth and faithfulness. The burden of our sin is lifted from us. New life is ours to enjoy. **Amen.**

*{Please be seated}*

## We Hear the Word of God

*We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings. We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God." Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.*

### PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Lesson: [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

**Psalter: Psalm 51:1-12**

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**People: according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

Leader: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

**People: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

Leader: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,

**People: so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Leader: Indeed, I was born guilty,

**People: a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

**ALL: Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Leader: You desire truth in the inward being;

**People: therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**People: wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.**

Leader: Let me hear joy and gladness;

**People: let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Leader: Hide your face from my sins,

**People: and blot out all my iniquities.**

**ALL: Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**People: and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Leader: Do not cast me away from your presence,

**People: and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

**People: and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Gospel: [John 12:20-33](#)

HYMN

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*

vs 1 & 2

Blue # 320

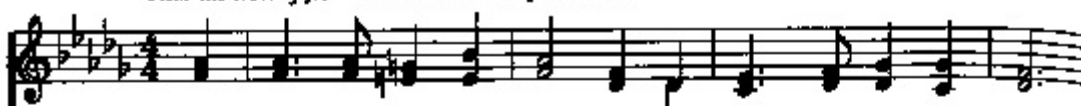
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CHILDREN'S SERMON


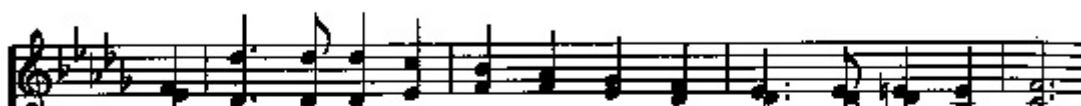
SERMON

# 320 Beneath the Cross of Jesus



*Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother. John 19:25*





1. Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand;  
 2. There lies be - neath its shad - ow, But on the far - ther side,  
 3. Up - on the cross of Je - sus Mine eyes at times can see  
 4. I take, O cross, thy shad - ow For my a - bid - ing place;


The sha - dow of a might - y rock With - in a wea - ry land,  
 The dark - ness of an aw - ful grave That gapes both deep and wide;  
 The ver - y dy - ing form of One Who suf - fered there for me.  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than The sun - shine of His face;

A home with - in the wil - der - ness, A rest up - on the way  
 And there be - tween us stands the cross, Two arms out - stretched to save,  
 And from my smit - ten heart, with tears, These won - ders I con - fess:  
 Con - tent to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,

From the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat And the bur - den of the day.  
 Like a watch - man set to guard the way From that e - ter - nal grave.  
 The won - der of His glo - rious love, And my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 My sin - ful self - my on - ly shame, My glo - ry - all the cross.



TEXT: Elizabeth C. Clephane  
 MUSIC: Frederick C. Maker

ST. CHRISTOPHER  
 7.5.8.6.8.6.8.6.

## We Respond with Thanks

*We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped,  
we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have  
learned more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by  
re-affirming our faith in God,  
praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world, and  
giving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.*

In Memory of

Marilyn L. (Spangler) Wyckoff

Disciple of Christ

and

Member of the Family of St. Paul's UCC

November 12, 1942 to March 3, 2021

*{We share in this memorial rite today to offer prayers  
and show our love, support, and care  
for this member of our family of St. Paul's United Church of Christ}.*

### GREETING

**Leader:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People:** **And also with you.**

### SENTENCES *(Leader)*

God is near to all who call, who call from their hearts. The desires of those who fear God are fulfilled, their cries are heard; they are saved.

When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into Christ's death. By our baptism, then, we were buried with Christ and shared Christ's death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of God, so too we might live a new life. For if we have been united with Christ in a death like Christ's, we shall certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like Christ's.

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Unison)* {From Paul's letter to the Romans}

**We believe that there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus,  
and we know that in everything God works for good  
with those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.**

**We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,  
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING *(Leader)*

O God, our strength and our redeemer, giver of life and conqueror of death, we praise you with humble hearts....

....Keep us all in communion with your faithful people in every time and place, that at last we may rejoice together in the heavenly family where Jesus Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. **Amen.**

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

**Leader:** Let us offer our silent prayers....

*{Silent Prayers}*

**SENTENCES** (*Leader*)

We would not have you be ignorant brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (*Unison*)

**O God, whose days are without end  
and whose mercies cannot be counted,  
awaken us to the shortness and uncertainty of human life.  
By your Holy Spirit,  
lead us in faithfulness all our days.  
When we have served you in our generation,  
may we be gathered with those who have gone before,  
having the testimony of a good conscience,  
in the communion of your holy church,  
in the confidence of a certain faith,  
in the comfort of a saving hope,  
in favor with you, our God,  
and at perfect peace with the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer we pray. Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** (*Unison*)

**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.**

**BLESSING**

**Leader:** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of Christ Jesus our risen Savior. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, be among you and remain with you always.  
**All:** Amen.

*The above is reprinted with permission from the Order for Thanksgiving for One Who Has Died and the Order for Committal from the United Church of Christ Book of Worship (1986) United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership*

**PRAYER RESPONSE** "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

vs 1

**Oh, Lord hear my prayer,  
Oh Lord, hear my prayer  
When I call answer me.**

**Oh Lord, hear my prayer,  
Oh Lord, hear my prayer,  
Come and listen to me.**

*Artist: Taizé  
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**OFFERTORY INVITATION** ②

**Leader:** What are we ready to die for?  
**People:** How much of ourselves and our resources will we risk for the sake of the gospel?  
**Leader:** Jesus invites us to follow as disciples and servants,  
**People:** risking everything for the sake of God's love.



## RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

*{As we share in worship, there is no passing of the plate in person.  
A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed  
when arriving or departing from the sanctuary, or mailed in to the church.*

*Whether worshiping in person or online,  
the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church  
is through our secure [Online Giving](#) option on our website at [sprucc.org](#). [Click Here](#)  
Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul's UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.*

*{Those who are able, please rise}*

### \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE      *"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful "*

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
In the Lord I'll rejoice.  
Look to God, do not be afraid,  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;  
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.**

*Artist: Taizé  
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### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER <sup>②</sup>

O Lord, we dedicate these tithes and offerings to the proclamation of your word, the teaching of your ways, and the living of your will for all humankind. We reach out with joy and gladness to offer your love to the world. May these gifts enable the sharing of your presence with many who have not experienced a sense of their own value as your children. As we keep covenant with you, we would also share its joys and obligations with our neighbors. **Amen.**

## We Are Sent Out

*In response to God's love and grace,  
we go out into the world to share God's Good News  
through our words and actions.*

### \*COMMISSION <sup>②</sup>

Leader: God's wisdom has been planted in our hearts.  
It is different from the wisdom of this world.  
People: **We dare to live as forgiven and forgiving sinners.  
We risk showing love to those who seem unlovable.**  
Leader: We are people of God, accepted and loved.  
We are followers of Christ, commissioned for service.  
People: **Where Christ leads, we will follow.  
Where our service is needed, we will go.**  
ALL: **Amen.**

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*SENDING HYMN

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*

vs 3 & 4

*Blue # 320*

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*{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,  
as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world}.*



## Worship Service Resource Credits

Biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible (1989) by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted with permission from *The New Century Hymnal* of the United Church of Christ. (1995). Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press. and/or the *Book of Worship* of the United Church of Christ (1986). New York: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.

<sup>2</sup> *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler. (1996). Cleveland, OH: United Church Press.

<sup>3</sup> *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. (1995). Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis and Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, Philadelphia.

<sup>4</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Sundays and Seasons*. (2020). Augsburg Fortress.

<sup>5</sup> Reprinted with permission from the *Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the United States*. and/or *The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church*. (1985) New York: United Church Press.

<sup>6</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Sourcebook of Worship Services*

<sup>7</sup> scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America

<sup>8</sup> Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2020).

<sup>9</sup> *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.

<sup>10</sup> Sunday Sermons Preaching Resources. (2017). Margate, NJ.

<sup>11</sup> Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). *In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion*. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press

<sup>12</sup> Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.

<sup>13</sup> Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

<sup>15</sup> The Love Feast liturgy was primarily designed and written by United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson (2018) at umdiscipleship.org, with adaptations from: the Rev. Tamie Scalise, Richard Stowe (author of *The Love Feast*), moravianmusic.org, moravian.org, and the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz.

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*Resources are edited and adapted for use in this worship service.*



## The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

- (1) God welcomes us and invites us
- (2) We respond to God's call by worshipping Him
- (3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace
- (4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace
- (5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon
- (6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer
- (7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure
- (8) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others

## † Prayer List †

*Please lift up those listed here in your prayers this week.*

*"Pray for one another, so that you may be healed.*

*The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." ~ James 5:16b*

Sam B.  
 Rich D.  
 Rob & Jodi S.  
 Jim S.  
 George M.  
 Starr M.  
 Paul P.  
 Robin L.  
 Alex  
 Jacob E.  
 Fred R.  
 Ella L.  
 Terry O.  
 Rev. David K

Diane M.  
 Lori & Ryan B.  
 Ann H.  
 Lenna H.  
 Mildred U.  
 Julie R.  
 Jim & Donna K.  
 Family & Friends of Marilyn W.  
 Family & Friends of Barb B.  
 Family & Friends of Rev. Bill W.  
 Family & Friends of Elaine R. (mother of Barb D.)  
 Those impacted by COVID-19  
 Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19

*Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you.*

*All are welcome to add names to the prayer list.*

*Names are generally left on the list for about four weeks.*

*Please let us know if you would like a name to remain longer or shorter.*

*If you would like someone's name added to the prayer list,  
 please contact the church office at 610-621-5770 or [office@sprucc.org](mailto:office@sprucc.org).*

## ††† General Announcements †††

### Welcome!

We are glad that you are here to worship with us virtually. May you find the worship and message meaningful and satisfying to your soul. May your week be blessed.

### In Person AND Virtual Sunday School Options

Due to the increase in the number of people affected by COVID, *in-person Sunday school* for children and adults has been suspended until further notice.

However, [The Wired Word](#) is still available for adults. This is a virtual option which you may join via Zoom. For Zoom you can join either with a computer or smart device (if you do not yet have the Zoom app, click on this [Zoom](#) link), or call 1-301-715-8592 with a landline or cell phone. Meeting ID: 860 8980 7220; Passcode: 195152.

Although not in-person, the youth can still continue to learn about God's Word through the information available on our website. We have Sunday school music, videos, and an assortment of other materials that are available for downloading. Click on this link for [Sunday school for youth](#).

We also have devotional music for all ages on our website, courtesy of Pastor Bob. Click on this link for [Devotional Music](#).

For our Sunday school [COVID-19 Safety Precautions](#) click on the following link:

<http://www.sprucc.org/news-a-events.html#COVID19Precautions>

To have a copy of the precautions mailed to you, please call 610-621-5770.

### Telephone Live Streaming & Playback Worship

This service is being offered to those who do not have internet access. You may call us at our toll free number **1-888-649-5770** and listen to the worship service live using a landline or cell phone. (No internet, smartphone, tablet, or computer is necessary - this works with a standard corded phone, cell phone, or even with a rotary phone). You also have the option for the church to automatically call you when the live stream worship begins (rather than you calling the church); which you can sign up for at the above toll free number, or you can call the church office, and we can add you to the call list. If you have any questions, difficulties, or issues, please let us know by calling the office at 610-621-5770. There is no charge to you for this service. If you know of someone who does not have internet access, please let them know of this feature, especially as they cannot log onto the website and find out about this themselves.

### Visitation Care Team

Our Visitation Care Team (VCT) is composed of lay members who have been trained for visitation. If you are in need of prayer, a visit, or just a listening ear, they are here to be of support to you. To contact the Visitation Care Team with a visitation request or to share information about a potential care need, call the church office at 610-621-5770 or email the office at [office@sprucc.org](mailto:office@sprucc.org). For more information, go to our "[Visitation Care Ministries](#)" page at [www.sprucc.org](http://www.sprucc.org) under the "ministries" tab.

### Lenten Bible Study Series

This year, St. Paul's UCC in Robesonia and Zion UCC in Womelsdorf, will be having a combined study series during the Sundays in Lent. The topic is "*Making Sense of the Bible*". It will be held via Zoom on Sunday evenings (Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, & 21) at 6:30pm. There is no cost, no minimum number of sessions that you must attend, and you need not be a member of either church. All are welcome. Detailed information may be found [here](#).

### Weekly Lectionary Bible Study

Every Tuesday morning Zion UCC of Womelsdorf offers a Zoom Bible Study based on the scripture passages for the coming Sunday. You may use any version of the Bible. The study goes from 9:00 to 9:45am most of the time (occasionally it may go a little longer). They would be happy to have you join them! Zoom login information may be found on our [website](#).

## About Today

**Church Season: Lent** - 40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross. The root word of "Lent" means "to lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection - moving from darkness to light.

**Color of the Paraments** (cloths on the altar and pulpit):

**Purple** - Symbolizing the passion (suffering) of Christ our King that led to his crucifixion.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year B**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Mark.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church).

**This Sunday, March 21, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the Fifth Sunday in Lent.**

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 *or* Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

### **Jeremiah**

The book of Jeremiah (OT) is attributed to the major prophet Jeremiah and written around 600-500 B.C. (B.C.E.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct. Jeremiah's ministry extended over the last tragic forty years of the kingdom of Judah to the destruction of Jerusalem and the deportation of the Jewish people to Babylon.

### **Psalm 51**

This OT song was composed by King David when the prophet Nathan confronted him with his sin in Bathsheba. This is a prayer for help, offered by one who is deeply aware of their sin and guilt, knowing the need for God's forgiveness.

### **Hebrews**

The Epistle (letter) to the Hebrews (NT) is attributed to the Apostle Paul, believed to be written between 60-95 A.D. (C.E.). Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and leader in the Christian church, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. He wrote more of the NT than any other person. The title of this letter "Hebrews" presumably refers to the original audience of this letter as primarily Jewish-Christian.

### **The Gospel According to John**

John is the latest of the four Gospels, written around 80-90 A.D. probably in Ephesus, and attributed to John the son of Zebedee, the beloved disciple of Jesus. This Gospel was "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name" (20:31).

**Next Sunday, March 28, 2021, Lectionary Reading for the Sixth Sunday in Lent: Palm/Passion Sunday.**

Isaiah 50:4-11; Philippians 2:5-13; Mark 15:1-39 (Mark 14:1– 15:47), Mark 11:1-11.