

**March 10, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**First Sunday in Lent**

Lent is a season for spiritual reassessment and renewal. It is an appropriate time to consider the state of our Christian stewardship. Are we faithfully using the many gifts that have been entrusted to us? If not, then now might be the perfect time to start!

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music** 8:30 **Hymnal 257 We meet you, O Christ** (seated) *Stanley Beach* 10:45 O God of every nation *arranged by Mitchell Eithun*

Promise Bells

**Greeting**

Leader: You who are righteous, rejoice in the Lord and be glad!

**People: All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!**  *Psalm 32:11 (CEV)*

**Announcements**

**Choral Introit**  10:45 *Hart Morris*

Be still and know, know that I am God.

 Know that I am the Lord thy God.

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!

**People: God has blessed us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!**

Leader: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

**People: Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;**

Leader: Let them return to the Lord.

**People: Let them return to the Lord. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 150 God, who stretched the spangled heavens** (standing) *Holy Manna*

**Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**Almighty and everlasting God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
you created us for yourself,
so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.**

**Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose
that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will,
and no weakness from doing it.**

**In your light may we see life clearly
and in your service find perfect freedom;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3124 How shall I come before the Lord** (stanza 1, standing)*O Waly Waly* **How shall I come before the Lord and bow myself with heart outpoured?**

 **And shall I come with offering? What shall I give? What shall I bring?**

 **… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**Open Our Hearts March Emphasis** Gifts Rob Spicher

 **Open our lives and freely give Silently now we wait for thee**

**So that your loved ones freely live. Ready our God your will to see**

**And as our gifts spread through all the Earth Open our lives, illumine us**

**May the receivers gain new birth. Spirit divine.**

**The Sign of Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Gathering Song**

 **This, this is where children belong,**

 **Welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.**

 **Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:**

 **This is where children belong.** WORDS AND MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

 (All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward.)

After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the Sanctuary near the end of the service, and parents may meet them.

**Anthem** 10:45 Hymn of Promise *Natalie Sleeth*

 In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;

 in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!

 In the cold and snow of winter, there’s a spring that waits to be,

 unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

 There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;

 there’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.

 From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,

 unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

 In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity.

 In our doubt, there is believing; in our life, eternity.

 In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,

 unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Joeta D’Este 10:45 Hazel Cope

**A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures**

 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 God is our refuge and strength

**Handbell Anthem** 10:45 Shepherd’s Peace *arranged by Sandra Eithun*

Chapel Bells

**Response**

 Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

 **People: Thanks be to God**.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** (standing) *James J. Chepponis*

 Cantor sings first: **Praise and honor to you. Praise and honor to you.**

 **Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Scripture Reading

**A Lesson from the Gospel**

 Luke 4:1-13 Jesus is tested in the wilderness

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 *Walter L. Pelz*

 O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;

 inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.

 You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured;

 lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God’s eternal word.

 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above;

 so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God’s love.

 Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,

 that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven’s praise.

**Hymnal 95 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow** (standing) *Old 100th* **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow**

 **praise him, all creatures here below;**

 **praise him above, ye heavenly host;**

 **praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “G.O.D.” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe** in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe** in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe** in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 269 Lord, who throughout these forty days** (stanzas 1-4, standing) *Land of Rest*

**Benediction**

**Hymnal 269 Lord, who throughout these forty days** (stanza 5, standing) *Land of Rest*

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar and in the Chancel** are given by Steve Stockton in memory of loved ones.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Promise Bells and the Chapel Bells, directed by Nancy R. Lutz; the Youth Choir; and the Chancel Choir, accompanied by Cori DeLuca. Mrs. DeLuca teaches piano in the area and welcomes new students.

**Acolytes** Cameron Grabowski and Jacob Lowe **Cross Bearer** Luke Grabowski

**Greeters 8:30** Rob and Jane Spicher **10:45** Jim and Linda Hoover

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Psalm 91**

**Assurance of God’s Protection**

1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
   who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
2 will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress;
   my God, in whom I trust.’
9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
   the Most High your dwelling-place,
10 no evil shall befall you,
   no scourge come near your tent.

11 For he will command his angels concerning you
   to guard you in all your ways.
12 On their hands they will bear you up,
   so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
13 You will tread on the lion and the adder,
   the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

14 Those who love me, I will deliver;
   I will protect those who know my name.
15 When they call to me, I will answer them;
   I will be with them in trouble,
   I will rescue them and honour them.
16 With long life I will satisfy them,
   and show them my salvation.

**Luke 4:1-13**

**The Temptation of Jesus**

4Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. 3The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.’ 4Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone.” ’

5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6And the devil said to him, ‘To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’8Jesus answered him, ‘It is written,
“Worship the Lord your God,
   and serve only him.” ’

9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10for it is written,
“He will command his angels concerning you,
   to protect you”,
11and
“On their hands they will bear you up,
   so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.” ’
12Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” ’ 13When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http://mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $33 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium arrangements, and $66 for the chancel flowers.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore, Jean Boyer,

Mary Caldwell, John Dean,

Joseph Festor, Leon Grant, Jr.,

Dave Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,

George Lindow, Sara Mercer,

Diane Shaw, Jinny Sheppard,

Ruth Seip, Carol Van Sickle, George Lindow

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz,
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell,

Sgt. Brendan Lamport,
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda,
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz,
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes,
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller,

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller,
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski,

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, MARCH 10 THRU SATURDAY, MARCH 16**

**SUNDAY 3/10**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages/Coffee Café Various/Brookline Parlor

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 11:50 am Youth Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

 5 pm Youth Group Asbury

 5 pm Three Rivers Ringers Rehearsal Sanctuary

 7 pm Corner Stories Welcome Center

**MONDAY 3/11**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

**TUESDAY 3/12**

 10 am Weekday Ministries Chapel Sanner Chapel

6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury

 6:30 pm Family Promise Board Meeting Library

 7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

 7 pm Board of Reviews Network

 7 pm Cub Scout Committee Planning Meeting Epworth

**WEDNESDAY 3/13**

 1 pm Small Group Book Study Brookline Parlor

 7 pm Finance Committee Meeting Welcome Center

 7 pm Bear, Lion, Webelos, Tiger, & Wolf Den Meetings Various

**THURSDAY 3/14**

 9:30 am UMW Executive Board Meeting Network

 11 am UMW Meeting Wesley

6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7 pm Education Committee Meeting Brookline Parlor

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room