

**March 24, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**The Third Sunday in Lent**

*All of you who are thirsty, come to the water! Whoever has no money, come, buy food and eat! (Isaiah 55:1-2, CEB)* Is this a deal, or what? When our “spiritual credit” is shot, God steps in with the deal of a lifetime.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music Hymnal 444 O young and fearless Prophet** (seated) *Blairgowrie*

**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.

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**Call to Worship**

Leader: You are the salt of the earth.

**People: May we season the world with faithfulness, O God.**

Leader: You are the light of the world.

**People: May your love shine through us, O Christ our Savior.**

Leader: You are a city built on a hill.

**People: May your vigor make us bold witnesses, O Spirit of the living God.**

*Worship & Song*

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 127 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah** (standing)  *Cwm Rhondda*

**Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**God of creation, your heavens and earth shout out the amazing news of your power and glory. God of justice, your laws of mercy and goodness reveal your vision of harmony for all people. God of love, your Son Jesus Christ proclaims the amazing news of your liberation for all who are hungry, poor, or oppressed. May we join with all of creation to become your message of love to the world. 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?**

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

**Sacrament of Baptism** (10:45) p. 39

*Nolan William Knabb*

*son of John & Sara Knabb*

***Congregational Response:***

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life

and include *Nolan William* now before you in your care?

**People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news
     and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround** *Nolan William* **with a community of love and forgiveness,
     that he may grow in his service to others.**

**We will pray for him,
     that he may be a true disciple,**

 **who walks in the way that leads to life.**

**Anthem** 10:45 The Prayer of St. Patrick *William M. Schoenfeld*

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me,

 Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

 Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me,

 Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

 words St. Patrick (372-466); music ©1989 Choristers Guild

 Children’s Choirs from Southminster Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian and

 Mt. Lebanon United Methodist churches

**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.

 “Noisy offering” for Haiti

**Open Our Hearts March Emphasis** Gifts 10:45 Alex Rodgers, Scout

 **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.**

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Liz DiPietro 10:45 Bob James

**A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures**

 Isaiah 55:1-9 Invitation to the feast

**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.**

**Good News 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!**

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Scripture Reading

**A Lesson from the Gospel**

 Luke 13:1-9 Parable of the fig tree

**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 An Anthem of Comfort *Gilbert M. Martin*

 Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while he sings;

 it is the Lord who rises with healing in His wings;

 when comforts are declining, He grants the soul again

 a season of clear shining, to cheer it after rain…

 words Wm. Cowper, 1779; music ©1985Hinshaw Music, Inc.

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**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** “Bad Credit? Okay!” 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 438 Forth in thy name, O Lord** (stanzas 1-3, standing) *Duke Street*

**Benediction**

**Hymnal 438 Forth in thy name, O Lord** (stanza 4, standing) *Duke Street*

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Michael Alexander in celebration of his wife Dovey's birthday tomorrow.

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given by Jude Florian in celebration of the upcoming birthday of his beloved Gram, Karen Florian.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir, conducted by Ryan A. Keeling, and the combined Children’s Choirs, conducted by Courtney Heath.

**We welcome the children’s choirs from our neighbor churches,** Southminster Presbyterian, with directors Rich Pinkerton and Cecile Usner; and Westminster Presbyterian, with director Beth Ketterman. Starting here, they will travel to the other two churches during Lent, singing and collecting donations for the La Croix Mission in Haiti.

**Acolytes** Emily Shoff and Anna Rhoton **Cross Bearer** Bradley Shoff

**Greeters 8:30** Gale Seymore **10:45** Joyce Magill

**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**

**Isaiah 55:1-9**

**An Invitation to Abundant Life**

55Ho, everyone who thirsts,
   come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
   come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
   without money and without price.
2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
   and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
   and delight yourselves in rich food.
3 Incline your ear, and come to me;
   listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
   my steadfast, sure love for David.
4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
   a leader and commander for the peoples.
5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
   and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
   for he has glorified you.
6 Seek the Lord while he may be found,
   call upon him while he is near;
7 let the wicked forsake their way,
   and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
   and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
   nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
   so are my ways higher than your ways
   and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Luke 13:1-9**

**Repent or Perish**

13At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’

**The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree**

6 Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” 8He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. 9If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.” ’

**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

Keith Will, Providence point

David Lewis, Jefferson Rehabilitation

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore, Jean Boyer,

Mary Caldwell, John Dean,

Joseph Festor, Leon Grant, Jr.,

Susan Lichtenfels, George Lindow,

Sara Mercer, Diane Shaw, Jinny

Sheppard, Ruth Seip, Carol Van Sickle

**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 24 THRU SATURDAY, MARCH 30**

**SUNDAY 3/24**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9 am High School Sunday School Asbury Kitchen

 9:30 Pocket Change Welcome Center

 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

 7 pm Corner Stories Welcome Center

**MONDAY 3/25**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

**TUESDAY 3/26**

6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury

 7 pm Board of Reviews Network/105

 7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley/107

**WEDNESDAY 3/27**

 7 am Weekday Ministries Picture day Brookline Parlor

 7 pm Bear, Tiger, Wolf Den Meeting Various

**THURSDAY 3/28**

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room