



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Second Sunday in Lent  
28 February 2021 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

Voluntary Echo Fantasia

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

Ringing of the Bell *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

\*Call to Worship

Mal Hildebrand and Pat Hildebrand-Culler

People of the covenant:  
God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions.  
God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love:  
Future generations will be told about the Lord,  
and proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn.  
And all the families of the nations shall worship before God.

Lenten Candle Service

We journey together this season of Lent: a time to reflect, a time to forgive, a time to repent. As we extinguish the second Lenten candle, we remember God's promise to Abraham and Sarah as they ventured into an unknown land and Christ's journey to the cross. Let us pray:

Loving God, you know us by heart and call us by name. In this time of worship, help us to trust in you that we might name ourselves proudly as your people and as followers of Christ. Amen.

\*Hymn The God of Abraham Praise

*Leoni*

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,  
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!  
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,  
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will,  
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.  
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,  
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,  
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.  
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,  
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;  
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages flow.  
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:  
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

**\*Prayer of Confession** Merciful God, we confess to you what you already know better than we do: our faithfulness as followers of Christ has not been reliable. Following Christ is a hard thing—a journey of sacrificial love—and even though we know of your promise and your resurrection, we shy away from the cost of discipleship, too rooted in earthly things and worldly fears to take up our crosses and walk the path Jesus walked. Forgive us. Free us from the restraints that hold us back from the fullness of repentance, and bring us all the way to you. Hear now as we lift up to you our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us Hymnal, Back Cover

**\*Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**\*Response of Praise** *Gloria Patri* Hymnal, Back Cover

**Children's Sermon** Rev. Christian K. Choi

**Response** Spirit of the Living God Daniel Iverson

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

**First Scripture Reading** Genesis 17:1-7

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous."

<sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

**Music** The Lord's Prayer Albert Hay Malotte

**Second Scripture Reading** Mark 8:31-38

<sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly.

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> 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.”

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> 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** Winter Promises

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

*“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you...’ -Genesis 17:1-2a*

**Music** Adoration

Florence B. Price

## The Church at Prayer

Soloist: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.  
I can hear the brush of angels’ wings  
I see glory on each face;  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

## 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 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.

## \*Introduction to the Offering

**\*Offertory Response** Doxology

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your faithfulness in both easy times and hard. We pray that we, too, would be faithful, and that our lives and our gifts would be dedicated to carrying your promise into the whole world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray; amen.

**\* Hymn** Great is Thy Faithfulness

*Faithfulness*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain:* Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Refrain*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Closing Voluntary** Toccata in a-minor

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

**Worship Participants**

Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life  
Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry  
Mal Hildebrand and Pat Hildebrand Culler, Liturgists  
Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts  
Jim Bogue, Handbell Ringer  
Lyle VanDeventer, Bass  
Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers  
Dee Dee Duffy, Greeter  
Gregg Humphrey and Mike Sundquist, Ushers  
Mary Ray, Safety Team