



First Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

arr. Stephen Aber

Silent Procession of the Cross

Call to Worship

Molly White

Lift up your souls to the Living God, who enters into covenant with us. We wait on our Maker; trusting God's kindness and seeking to know God's ways. Raise your eyes to behold the risen Christ, who triumphs over death and destruction. In Jesus Christ we renew our commitment to share the good news of God's realm. Attune yourselves to the Holy Spirit's gifts and leave behind the wilderness of despair. The Spirit sets us free from limits of the flesh, from bondage to sin and decay.

Hymn

This Is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.

This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring! God reigns; let the earth be glad!

Opening Prayer

Molly White

God of saving acts in human history, and lively promises for future fulfillment, equip us in this hour of worship to live fully in the present. Make your ways known to us and teach us your truth. Lead your humble servants in the way you would have us go. Be patient with us, we pray, for we are trying to be faithful. Amen.

Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 3:18-22

Allie Camp

Time with Young Disciples

Laurie Harrell

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Sermon

"Covenant Sign"

Rick Clayton

Baptisms

Pierce Tharrington McKinney

son of Sarah-Butler & Stahler McKinney

James Hayden Phillips

son of Rebecca & Justin Phillips

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

I present _____ for baptism.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

Will you nurture these children in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

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

**We will surround these children with a community of love and forgiveness,
that they may grow in their service to others.**

We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:

When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.

He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it,
to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives,
that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit,
you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Now it is our joy to welcome our new sisters and brothers in Christ.

**Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation
and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus.**

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as members of the family of Christ.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, I commend these children to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love.

**As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service,
that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Adam Charville

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Adam Charville

Offertory

For Everyone Born
Joy Clayton with Stephen Aber

Shirley Erena Murray

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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.

Benediction

Rick Clayton

Prayer Bookmark

Deaths

Barbara Ann Earnest,
mother of Ellen Safrit

Mike Jones,
father of Suzanne Snipes & Michael Jones

Sally Hamner Massey,
mother of Leslie Blackburn

Ongoing Concerns

Mark Angelo
Richard Birtch
Kermit Braswell
Stacey Buescher's dad, Fuzzy
Kent Burns
Kim Collins
Barbara Freeze

Ongoing Concerns

Mary Lou Goodrich
David Hesmer
Finlay Carter Judy
Margaret Lucas
Jo Ann Moore
Landon Peed
John Phillips
Robert Earl Phyllian
Jane Preiss
David Robertson
Rhumell Ross
Barbara Smith
Nancy Stamey
Phil Templeton
Elvey Thomas
Georgia Webb

Our Church Leaders

Pastors Rick, Adam and Molly
D.S. Southern; Bishop Ward

Our In-Crowd Members

**Church members who have suffered
from COVID or are caring
for those with the virus**

**Those grieving the over 495K
who have died from COVID in the US**

**Our Leaders at All Levels
of the Government**