

Sunday, February 21, 2021 ~ The 1st Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements ~ Jan Lapenta

Prelude

Call to Worship from Psalm 25 ~ *responsive* ~ Jan Lapenta

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

People: O my God, in you I trust, make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Leader: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

People: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

**you are invited to stand in body or in spirit*

**Hymn #39 ~ "Great is Thy Faithfulness"*

Holy Vessels ~ Rev. Jim Faile

Responsive Chorus #406

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around; Let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

Invitation to Confession ~ Rev. Nate Achterhof

Prayer of Confession ~ *in unison*

God of the covenant, as the forty days of deluge swept away the world's corruption and watered the beginnings of righteousness and life, so in the saving waters of Baptism we are washed clean and born again. Throughout these forty days renew us with your grace, cleanse our hearts of all that is unholy, and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

(A time of silent, personal prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness ~ Rev. Nate Achterhof

Response #423 ~ *"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"* (v. 1)

Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Prayer for Illumination ~ Jan Lapenta

Hebrew Scripture ~ Genesis 9.8-17 ~ Jan Lapenta

Special Music ~ *"I Need Thee Every Hour"* (A.S. Hawks; R. Lowry) ~ Jeff Velis

Christian Scripture ~ Mark 1.9-15 ~ Rev. Nate Achterhof

Message ~ "The God who remembers" ~ Rev. Nate Achterhof

*Hymn #480 ~ *"Take Me to the Water"*

Community at Prayer ~ Rev. Nate Achterhof

Invitation to Prayer #698 ~ *"Take, O Take Me as I Am"*

*Take, O take me as I am;, summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

Prayers of the People ~ Rev. Nate Achterhof

The Lord's Prayer ~ *in 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.

*Hymn #834 ~ *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

* Passing the Peace ~ Rev. Nate Achterhof

* Benediction ~ Rev. Nate Achterhof

* Choral Response #748 ~ *"Go with Us, Lord"*

*Go with us Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.*

CCLI#2342595/20863950 CVLI#504305417

ANNOUNCEMENT

The council calls a special meeting of the congregation of St. Paul's for TODAY, February 21, 2021, immediately following worship. The meeting will be virtual via the same method of participating in worship (Google Meet and dial in).

The purpose of the meeting is to hear the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee, to present the candidate, to vote on their recommendation to extend the call and approve the terms of call, and to dismiss the PNC with thanks upon

the installation of the newly called pastor. Three members of the congregation will attest to the meeting. No other business will be conducted at this meeting.

Highlights from the February 16 Council Meeting:

1. Discussed the voting procedure for the Congregational Meeting for PNC.
2. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services will be combined into one online service and will be available by Maundy Thursday.
3. The annual combined meeting with the Board of Deacons will be Tuesday, May 11, 2021.
4. The Fellowship/Outreach Committee is seeking members. Please contact Kathy VanEck @ 313-231-1543 for information.
5. As noted in the details below, the ROMANS event will be Sunday, March 14, 2021.

**ROMANS 12:4: *CEREAL DRIVE for Blessings in a Backpack*
*Who will feed the kids this weekend?***

“Because hunger doesn’t take a break on weekends.”

All donations will be going to ***Blessings in a Backpack: Livonia.***

Their goal is to provide nutritional meals on the weekend to children in need in the Livonia Public School district.

Please purchase ready to eat, full size boxes of cereal for donating.

The collection date is Sunday, March 14th, following worship until 1:00PM at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Kathy Potter christianeducator@stpaulspresbyterian.church or 313-719-8467

From the Board of Deacons: Single bags of non-perishable food are available from the Food Pantry to the members of St. Paul’s, their families, and to residents of the Livonia and Redford communities who seek assistance.

The distribution times are limited.

Please call the office during business hours for information.

The annual Per Capita Apportionment for St. Paul’s for 2021 is \$4,215.90, which translates to **\$32.00 PER MEMBER** based on the membership rolls as of December 31, **2019**. Requesting **EVERY MEMBER** to voluntarily contribute their portion of the required apportionment reduces the financial impact on the General Fund. Your support of this request is greatly appreciated!

And as a REMINDER: To avoid what seem to be inevitable mail delays (we received a local offering envelope on February 10, 2021 postmarked November 30, 2020!!)-if you are in the area-you can deposit offering envelopes or any other correspondence in our SECURE mailbox. Just be sure to include your donations in your personal numbered envelopes, PLEASE! Thank you!!

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Gail Artinian, Janet Frank, Karen Bright, Sheldon Davis, Doris Knecht, Joyce Barton
Pam Phillips, Suzanne Tabaka, Jim & Joanna Roye, Nola Bonandrini, Frank & Nancy Saunders
Jerry Stone, Beverly Dearth, Anita Falk, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz, Grace Campbell, Susan Grant
Bruce Phillips, Patricia Hutchison, Linda Thompson & her sister, Shirley Kircoff
Nicole Snead ~ daughter of Bill VanEck; Nancy Kreipke ~ mother of Christian; Rich McKenzie ~ son of Jean
Erin Lewis ~ daughter of Pattie Benoit; Thomas Peeples ~ friend of Jeff Graham
Phyllis Badman ~ niece of Georgia Hunt; Christie Piastowski ~ daughter of Karen Bright
Janet Kusuhara ~ cousin of Meta Tulley; Joe Ducsay ~ friend of Mike & Carol Graham; Mark Osborne ~ son of Janet
Diane Calloway & Tony S. ~ cousins of Gail Artinian; MaryAnn Tabaka ~ mother of Suzanne
Eric Tabaka ~ nephew of Suzanne; Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of Doris; Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda & Bob Seymour
David Bonandrini ~ son of Nola & Ben; Zoe Marcus ~ friend of Karen Erwin
Gideon Janku ~ great nephew of Bob Westbrook; Judy Siegfried ~ sister-in-law of Pam Phillips
Randy Tillman ~ son of Gloria Rubbo; Leslie Benoit ~ daughter of the late Tamar and Jim Duthie
Mary Rayes ~ friend of Pat Hutchison; Adam Schilling & Eric Shilling ~ grandsons of Ron & Janet Frank
Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta; Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon & Marion Davis

Please review the prayer list and report any changes to the office as soon as possible.

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,



Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:



As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
 날 마 다 자 비 를 베풀 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

406 We Are Standing on Holy Ground

Holy Ground

G D A D G D Em
 We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,
 D G F#m F#m7 B7
 and I know that there are an - gels all a -
 E Gm D A7 D G
 round; let us praise Je - sus
 D Em F#m7 G D G
 now; we are stand - ing in his
 D Em7 D G D
 pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

The phrase "holy ground" resonates with the experience of Moses at the burning bush, where he had an encounter with God (Exodus 3:5; also quoted in the martyr Stephen's sermon, Acts 7:33). The reference to angels may recall Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:12-17) or Hebrews 12:22.

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God 423

(Psalm 51)

Capo 5: (F) (Gsus) (G) (C) (Em7) (F) (A7)
B \flat Csus C F Am7 B \flat D7

1 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -
 2 Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence; 7
 3 Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion; re -

(D) (D7) (G) (Dm)
G G7 C Gm

ate in me a clean heart, O God; cre -
 cast me not a - way from your pres - ence; 7
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion; re -

(E) (E7) (Am) (E7) (Am)
A A7 Dm A7 Dm

ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 cast me not a - way from your pres - ence 7 and
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -

(Dm7) (Em) (G) (C) [(Em)]
Gm7 Am C F [Am]

new a right spir - it with - in me.
 take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
 hold me with your free Spir - it.

The text here comes from Psalm 51:10–12, three verses that illustrate the pattern of parallels often found in Hebrew poetry. The first verse here centers on positive actions, the second on avoidance of negative actions, and the third on providing an improved spiritual condition.

Take Me to the Water

1 Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the wa -
 2 I love Je - sus. I love Je -
 3 He's my Sav - ior. He's my Sav -
 4 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu -

ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
 sus. I love Je - sus, yes, I do.
 ior. He's my Sav - ior, yes, he is.
 jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

This African American spiritual sums up the commitment of a candidate for baptism: the request for the rite, an expression of motivation, and a succinct affirmation of faith. The widening melodic lines build anticipation and give weight to the final phrase of each stanza.

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
Text and Music © 1995 WGRC, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM
7.7.7.4

699 Fill My Cup

Refrain

Fill my cup; let it o-ver-flow; fill my

cup; let it o-ver-flow; fill my cup; let it

The refrain of this gospel song by a well-known Presbyterian pastor and musician can be understood as a meditation on Psalm 23:5, while the stanzas reflect an updated and easily accessible interpretation of the prayer often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi (see no. 753).

TEXT and MUSIC: Isaiah Jones Jr., 1969
Text and Music © 1970 Davike Music Company, assigned 1986 Fricout Music Company

FILL MY CUP
8.7.8.7 with refrain

834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me
2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
near; when my life is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I

light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

This black gospel song, like much hymnody, sprang out of the author's deep personal loss (the death of his wife and newborn son), yet it has brought solace to many. He thought his fingers were playing new music, but they unlocked a deep memory of a tune almost a century old.

Go with Us, Lord

748

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and

ev - ery com - ing day, that in your Spir - it

strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

*May be sung as a canon.

This very accessible sung prayer was created by the director of children's ministry at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, for use by their children's choir, but it is suitable for people of all ages. The familiar tune makes it easy to learn and to memorize.