

March 21, 2021 ~ The 5th Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements ~ Chery Nicholas

Prelude ~ Leigh Emmett

Call to Worship from Psalm 51.1-12 ~ *responsive*

Liturgist: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.

People: Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sins. For we know our transgressions, and our sins are ever before us.

Liturgist: Against you, you alone, have we sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

People: Let us hear joy and gladness; let the bones that have been crushed rejoice.

Liturgist: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

People: Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit.

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

**Hymn #833 ~ "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"*

Holy Vessels

Responsive Chorus #406 ~ *"We Are Standing on Holy Ground"*

*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

Prayer of Confession ~ *in unison*

Almighty God, Redeemer of all who trust you, heed the cry of your people. Deliver us from the bondage of sin, that we may serve you in perfect freedom and rejoice in your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior. Amen.

(A time of silent, personal prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

Hebrew Scripture ~ Jeremiah 31.31-34

Special Music ~ Leigh Emmett

Christian Scripture ~ John 12.20-26

Message ~ “The Irony of death and life”

*Hymn # 718 ~ “*Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*”

Community at Prayer

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

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 #724 ~ “*O Jesus, I Have Promised*”

*Passing the Peace

*Benediction

*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.*

Postlude

CCLI#2342595/20863950 CVLI#504305417

THANK YOU for the donations of 170 boxes of cereal (and 2 backpacks!) that were sent to Blessings in a Backpack last Sunday! This local non-profit serves Livonia Public School students who are experiencing food insecurity.

Update from the Board of Deacons meeting on March 9...

“St. Paul’s Board of Deacons has a tradition of accepting \$10.00 donations for tulips to decorate the sanctuary for the Easter service. Like last year, the Coronavirus emergency has made it impossible to do that, as the service will be live streamed. However, the Board of Deacons will again accept donations to the Deacon’s Food Pantry/Hunger Ministries. Donations may be made in honor of, or in memory of someone or something. A list of donors with their dedications will be posted online in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. The Board hopes that being a blessing to others, will also be a blessing to you. Please send donations to reach the church no later than Monday, March 29.”

Please include the following:

Make checks payable to the Board of Deacons.

- Presented by _____
- Phone or email _____
- In memory of _____ **OR**
- In honor of _____ **OR**
- As a gift to St. Paul’s

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-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, Pat Baker
Glenn Ellan Rubright ~ sister of Mike Graham; Nicole Snead ~ daughter of Bill VanEck
Nancy Kreipke ~ mother of Christian; Rich McKenzie ~ son of Jean; Erin Lewis ~ daughter of Pattie Benoit
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.