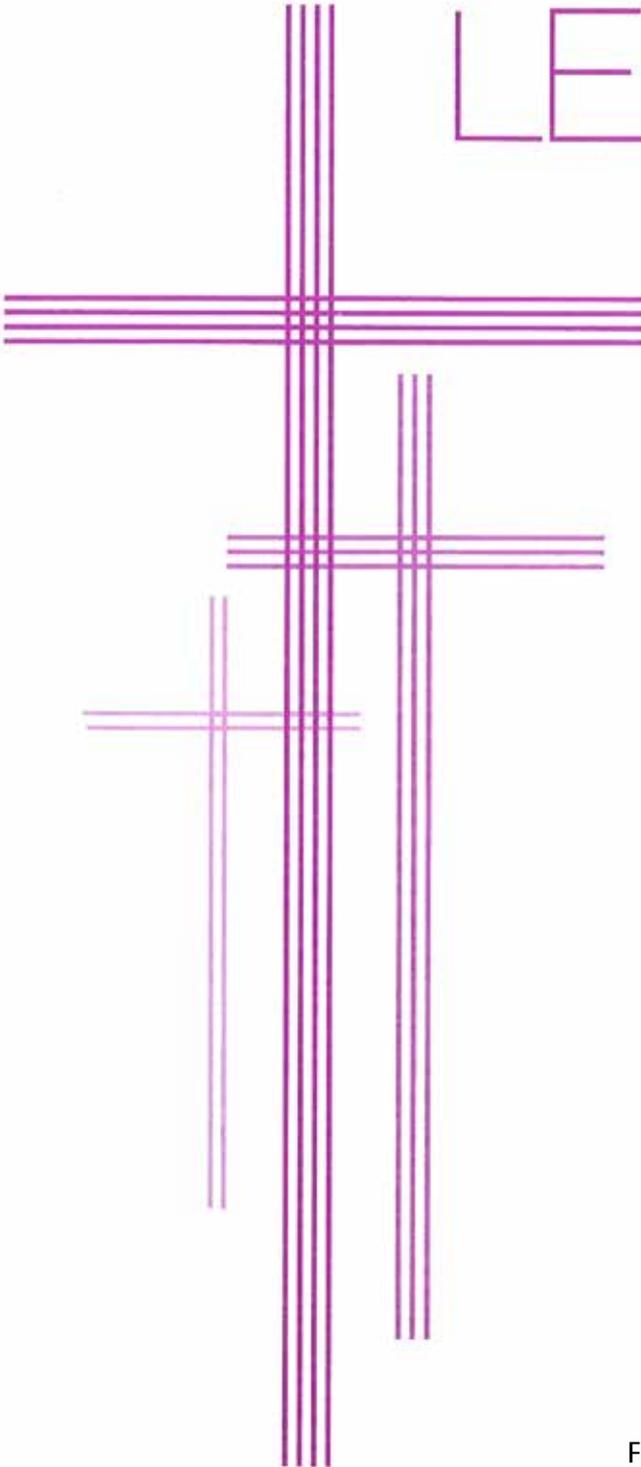


LENT



FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH  
Second Sunday in Lent  
March 17, 2019  
10 am  
Sanctuary, South Campus

## Welcome to First Community Church

We are a Christian church, affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ denominations. We welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faith traditions or from no faith tradition; anyone who is searching for deeper meaning and purpose in life.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation committed to equality, diversity, and personal and spiritual growth. We follow the way of Jesus as our teacher and model toward becoming more fully human, as part of our church's belief statement states: "We strive to follow the path of Jesus Christ while recognizing other pathways to the divine."

*(Please recycle your bulletins and any inserts if you are not taking them with you. Recycling bins are located at each exit. Thank you.)*

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## The Service of the Word

### Second Sunday in Lent



*To speak of sorrow  
works upon it  
moves it from its  
crouched place barring  
the way to and from the soul's hall.*

--Denise Levertov (1923-1997)

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#### THE CALL TO CONTEMPLATION

*For the quiet time during the prelude, we invite you to be in prayer.  
As you leave the service of worship, join in rejoicing with your neighbor.*

#### THE PRELUDE

*Elegy*

John Ireland (1879-1962)

#### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is my light, my hope, my all in all: whom shall I fear?

**All: God is the stronghold of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?**

Leader: One thing I asked of God: let me live in the shelter of you,  
in the beauty of your realm, in the wonder of your house.

**All: We seek your face, God! Do not turn aside!**

Leader: Teach us your way, God, show us your path through all that  
life brings.

**All: And we shall see the blessing of God: come, Holy Spirit!**

#### †THE HYMN #6, VS. 1-4

*Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good*

*Mit Freuden Zart*

## †THE PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray together:

**All: Holy One of Blessing, we are too well aware that life brings us pains, doubts, uncertainties. We remember that Abram was filled with questioning, the early church surrounded by threats, Jesus himself confronted with fearful powers. In the midst of that awareness, we call upon you, our everlasting refuge. Remember your people, God. We long for a way through the frights and sorrows of the world; we pray for your support. Come, Holy One; come, Spirit of Life. Come into this holy place and this holy hour, and fill us again with assurance of your grace. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## THE WELCOME

### THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.' <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.'" <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

Leader: Here ends the reading of the gospel.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### THE SOLO ANTHEM

*If With All Your Hearts*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*(Following the prayers, the children in K-5 will be invited to leave for their Sunday School classes.)*

## THE OFFERTORY

The Offertory Sentence

The Receiving of the People's Gifts

The Solo Anthem

*O Divine Redeemer*

Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

†The Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication

Leader: As the gifts are presented, would all rise in body or spirit?

Let us pray.

**All: God of all goodness, we thank you for your blessings:  
more numerous than the stars; more bountiful than the  
greatest of harvests; more steady than the beat of our  
hearts. Here we dedicate our gifts and rededicate ourselves  
to your vision of hope and wholeness.**

**May all that we do support your kingdom of love.**

**We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.**

†The Hymn

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,**

**Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise God, our strength, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*(The people may be seated.)*

## THE WISDOM TEXT

PSALM 31 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>O Lord, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence, <sup>2</sup>let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry. <sup>3</sup>For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. <sup>4</sup>I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help, <sup>5</sup>like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand. <sup>6</sup>You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. <sup>7</sup>Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. <sup>8</sup>You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; <sup>9</sup>my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call on you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you. <sup>10</sup>Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise you? <sup>11</sup>Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon?

<sup>12</sup>Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness? <sup>13</sup>But I, O Lord, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you. <sup>14</sup>O Lord, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide your face from me?

<sup>15</sup>Wretched and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your

terrors; I am desperate. <sup>16</sup>Your wrath has swept over me; your dread assaults destroy me. <sup>17</sup>They surround me like a flood all day long; from all sides they close in on me. <sup>18</sup>You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## THE SERMON

*FINDING GOD IN THE DARK  
Part 2 – The Darkness of Sorrow*

## †THE HYMN #332

*As We Gather at Your Table*

*Beach Spring*

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: May it be well with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Life is a gift and we its celebration.

**People: May we rejoice in the beauty that we are.**

Leader: So we bring thanksgiving for the beauty of creation: our universe, our planet, our fellow human beings and all the species living in community with us. We hear the mysterious voice of the Creator in all that is, and we celebrate the movement from bondage to liberation that echo throughout the biblical stories.

**People: In the fullness of time, Jesus arose, living a human life, sojourning in the wilderness and refusing the temptations to worldly power and self-aggrandizement, becoming saturated with God's presence in such a manner that he could stand up to the powers and principalities of religion and empire, and even face death on the cross.**

Leader: As his Beloved Community, we are called to follow the Way of Jesus, seeking justice, resisting evil, and embracing the fullness of our humanity to uncover the presence of God in our lives, that we might perform acts of compassion in co-creating the Kingdom of God on earth.

**People: In preparing for the Easter celebration of new life, we engage this season of practice and reflection, opening our hearts to transformation and renewal. We come to this service of communion seeking nourishment for heart, soul, body and mind during our Lenten journey. Amen.**

*(The people may be seated.)*

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Celebrant: *(The Words of Institution for the Bread)*

Celebrant: *(The Words of Institution for the Cup)*

Come and eat. All is ready. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

#### THE GIVING OF THE BREAD\* AND CUP

*Each person will be invited to come to a communion station to receive the bread and cup. You will receive the bread from the server. Each person may then dip the bread in the chalice held by the other server. An appropriate response to the server's words is "Amen." After receiving communion each person should return to his or her chair by the side aisle. Anyone who is unable to come forward should indicate this to an usher and communion will be brought to him or her.*

*(\*Non-alcoholic grape juice is served for everyone and gluten free bread is available on each bread plate in a separate cup.)*

#### THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: The bread and the cup we have taken are a sharing in the life of Christ.

**People: May our acceptance of it today be a sign of our faith:  
in the ongoing goodness of a God who journeys with us;  
in the power of love to remove any barrier within and  
among us; in the mystery of the call given to each one here,  
to make bread and life and beauty available to everyone.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### †THE HYMN #451

*Be Thou My Vision*

*Slane*

#### †THE BENEDICTION

#### THE POSTLUDE

*Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, BWV 559*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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~ *The End of Worship, the Beginning of Service* ~

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† *All rise in body or spirit*

#### PARTICIPANTS

**Preacher:** The Reverend Dr. R. Glen Miles  
*Senior Minister*

**Liturgist:** The Reverend Mr. James. M Long  
*Minister of Pastoral Care*

**Ushers:** Group B-Ron Arledge

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

Robert A. Griffith, *Organist*

Dr. C. Andrew Blosser, *Interim Director of Music, tenor soloist*

**TODAY AT FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**North Campus**

**9 am Worship:** Grace Hall  
Crib to 5 years: Rose Wing  
Children and youth begin in worship.  
K-3 grades: children released to their  
classes in the Rose Wing.  
4 - 5 grades: children and youth  
released to classes in the  
Education Wing.

**11 am Worship:** Grace Hall  
Crib to 5 years: Rose Wing  
Children and youth begin in worship.  
K-3 grades: children released to their  
classes in the Rose Wing.  
4-8 grades: children and youth released  
to classes in the Education Wing.

**5:30 pm Worship**  
No childcare. Children are welcome  
in worship.

**South Campus**

**8:30 am Adult Education**  
"Jesus and His Jewish Influences" DVD  
lecture series and discussion facilitated  
by John Hoberg and Adult  
Learning Council.

**10 am Worship:**  
Crib to 5 years: Rooms 221 & 209  
Children and youth begin in worship.  
K-5 grades: children released to their  
classes in Lincoln Road Chapel.

Crossroads for Middle and High School youth 7 pm in room 130 at North Campus  
Christianity: Perspectives and Insights, 7-8:30 pm, Centennial Room, North Campus

Our Pastoral Care staff is available if you desire a visit or call during an illness, hospitalization or time of need. Please send notifications of weddings, births, hospitalizations or deaths to prussell@FCchurch.com or call (614) 488-0681 ext 228

**Parish Register**

*As of 3/13/19*

**Recently Hospitalized**  
Lona Kemmerling

**Deaths**  
Sandra Pinkham 3/7/19  
*Wife of Galen Pinkham*

**Memorial Service**  
Marilyn Allen (2/6/19)  
*Calling hours*  
Friday, March 22, 2019  
4-7 pm/Brownlee Hall  
*Celebration of Life*  
Saturday, March 23, 2019  
11 am/Sanctuary/Rev. Jim Long  
Reception following

Visit [FCchurch.com/parish-register](http://FCchurch.com/parish-register) to view listings of upcoming Memorial Services.

- **Welcome visitors!** Stop by our Welcome Center for information on programs and activities and pick up a copy of our newspaper.
- **Church Membership:** Please text joinfcc to 42828 or contact Kristy Glaser at 614-488-0681 ext.161 or kglaser@FCchurch.com if you're interested in becoming a member.
- **Baptisms:** Our next Baptism Sunday will be May 12. For more information go to FCchurch.com/baptisms. To schedule a baptism, contact Paula Russell at (614) 488-0681 ext. 228 or prussell@FCchurch.com
- Watch all worship services live on Facebook and FCchurch.tv
- Watch *First Edition* on WWHO-TV, The CW, Sunday mornings at 8:30 am.
- If you need to step out during worship – restless child, coughing spell, etc. – the service can be heard in lobby areas.
- Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available; ask an usher.

### Lenten Household Prayers\*

#### **Morning**

Loving God, all night I slept in your shadow, sheltered by you. As I enter the gift of this day, I trust that you are with me. May I see signs and wonders of your presence in the world today, for you alone are God. I ask that this day afford me opportunities to celebrate and share with others the abundance of your grace and love. Help me to be open to all people you bring my way, for you yourself make no distinctions, but are God of all. In Christ's name I pray.

Amen.

#### **Evening**

God, my dwelling place, as the shadows fall, I rest in you. Thank you for the faith that held me fast this day. Thank you, too, for every person who offered me grace, and for those to whom I could also show grace. I pray this night for all who long to see a sign of your power in the darkness that surrounds them. Be near to them and touch them with your presence and wholeness. And in the morning when I rise, give me work to do for another day; in Jesus' name.

Amen.

\*From *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long (Westminster John Knox Press, 20120)