



**Worship**  
**February 26, 2023, 11:15 am**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

+Stand as you are able



## Gathering

**Welcome and Announcements**  
**Lighting of the Christ Candle**  
**Centering Music**

### +Call to Worship

Listen! **There is hope to be found here.**

Listen! **God calls you by name here.**

Listen! **There is love that abides here.**

This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen. **God is speaking.**

Let us worship. **Amen.\***

Let us pray: **Almighty God, your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save. Amen.\*\***

**+Hymn**     *I Sing the Mighty Power of God #32*

### Call to Confession

Friends, if you are seeking grace, this moment is for you.

If you are seeking growth, this moment is for you.

If you are seeking honesty, this moment is for you.

In the prayer of confession, we admit to ourselves and to God that we do not have it all figured out.

And in that vulnerability, we are surrounded by God's grace. So let us pray together, using the prayer of confession printed in your bulletin.\* Let us pray:

### Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications.**

**In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen.**

**Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like. Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you.**

**With earnest hearts we pray, amen.\* (Moment of silent prayer.)**

### Assurance of Pardon

Friends, even when we tune God out, even when we prioritize other voices, even when we do all the talking and fail to listen, we are still held by God. Our sins are forgiven. Nothing could ever separate us from God's love. So with joy in our hearts, please repeat after me:

I am loved! I am loved!  
 I am held in grace! I am held in grace!  
 I belong to God. I belong to God.  
 Amen.\*

**Response of Praise**     *Great are You, Lord (Great is the Lord) #614*

### **Passing of the Peace**

L: Be kind to one another, and tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. May the peace of Christ be with you.\*\*

**P: And also with you.**

### **Anthem**

## **Hearing the Word**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Holy God, Listening is always easier said than done.**

**We shuffle into this space and try to quiet our minds, but the list of distractions is long. We need your help to listen.**

**So today we ask that you would marinate us in your Word.**

**Dust the cobwebs from our ears. Stir our souls awake. Crack open our hearts to make room for you.**

**Scoop us up. Put us in your pocket. Carry us with you wherever you go.**

**We want to hear you, really hear you, so speak to us now.**

**With hope we pray, amen.\***

**Scripture Reading**     **Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7**     <sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

**Hymn**     *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*     729

**Gospel Reading**     **Matthew 4:1-11**     Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the

pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**Sermon**     *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days #166*

## Responding to the Word

### Affirmation of Faith

In a world full of noise, **we believe that God is speaking.**

In a world full of chaos, **we believe that God is singing.**

In a world full of temptation, **we believe that God is healing.**

Church, who will you listen to? **We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.**

Church, what will you listen for? **We will listen for water in the desert, for the wind of the Spirit, for the laughter of children, for the sound of open doors, and for God’s voice, who calls us beloved. Amen.\***

### Offering Prayer

Giver of all good gifts, accept our offerings of money, time and talents that we give in response to your generosity to us. Guide us in the way we share our resources and in the way we use the offerings, for the benefit of our community and the world. Amen.

## Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

### Joys and Concerns

#### Invitation to the Table

*Jesus said: Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open the door, I will come in to them and eat with them, and they with me.* Let us come to the table of the Lord.

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, you made the world to hum in harmony; you listened and you called it good. In time we broke off from singing the song and went our own way, but you called us back and when the time was right you came in flesh and blood to live as one of us.

In Christ, dividing walls are broken down— no Jew or Greek, male and female, slave or free. You are there on every spectrum, in every color, at every table.

By your Spirit, make us one. By your Spirit, make us whole. By your Spirit, make this bread and wine your body and blood, that we may know communion with you and with each other. Take our hearts, our lives, our hands; mold us, change us, and send us out, that we may be your body in the world you so love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen. Hear us now as we pray Christ’s prayer together: ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today***

*our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

**Words of Institution**

**Communion of the People**

**Prayer after Communion**

Holy God, giver of wine and bread, send us from your table in confidence that we are your own children, born of your Spirit, fed at your table, filled with your grace, sent to speak your truth and offer your love to the world in Christ's name. **Amen.\*\***

## **Taking the Word into the World**

**+Song**     *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth #747*

### **+Charge and Benediction**

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry.

Seek the weary.

Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful.

Seek the faithful.

Seek God in each of us.

As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.

In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, go now in peace. Amen.\*

*\*Prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

*\*\*Prayers from the Book of Common Worship, PCUSA, Kindle Edition.*

**Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#**

**Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live**

# COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - FEBRUARY 26, 2023

### Contact

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### Focal Scriptures for Sunday, March 5

John 3:1-17

Genesis 12:1-4a

### In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy

Ruth Roeber

The McDermott family

Johanna Willis

The Kleier family

Jean Jennings' family

Emilee Walden

Kelly Montana

Lynda Jaeger

Ron Carlin

Ella Grace Marksberry

### Worship Services

Join us for in person services at 710 Western Reserve Rd., Crescent Springs, KY. You can also worship with us online via Facebook Live, or by joining the conference call. Worship services begin at 11:15 am.

### Lenten Study

We will be having a Lenten study before worship on Sundays at 10:15 am, using materials from our Lenten Series, "Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith." The study will begin on the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2023. Coffee and snacks may be shared. Contact Rev. Sharon for more information.

### Liturgists Needed

Liturgists are needed to help lead worship. Please sign up on the sheet on the welcome table. Thank you!

### "One Great Hour of Sharing" Special Offering

The "One Great Hour of Sharing" special offering will be collected until Sunday, April 9. This offering supports the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

### "Song of Our Lands" Concert

Former COF Choir Director Yeon-Kyung Kim will be performing during the "Song of Our Lands" concert on Friday, March 10 at 7 pm at the Dayton Korean United Methodist Church, and also on Knox Presbyterian on Saturday, March 11 at 7:30 pm.