



**Community of Faith
Presbyterian Church
Sunday, February 11, 2024**

Regular type, leader reads; **Bold type, all read**

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Music

+Call to Worship *After Psalm 50*

God the mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Radiating from the perfection of ultimate beauty, God shines forth.

Our God is rowdy and boisterous for God does always step silently. Before him is a devouring fire; God is infinite in Being and perfection

A mighty tempest storms around him. He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

"Gather to me my faithful ones who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

The heavens declare the righteousness of God's judgment.

+Hymn *We Gather Together #336*

Call to Confession

"No one has ever seen God," but we see creation all around us, explore space, dive to the deepest ocean depths, calculate the largest to the smallest things all around us. All this, we believe is from the One God who gives us these things to help us lead fuller lives. Out of that, our ancestors in the faith deduced that God is merciful and just. It is reason enough to place our trust in such a God. Let us pray together.

Prayer of Confession *After a Lakota Prayer*

O Creator, Grandfather, you have made everything and are in everything. You sustain everything, guide everything, provide everything, and protect everything, because finally, everything belongs to you. We confess our weakness, our spiritual poverty, our poor stewardship of planet Earth. Help us to care more and exploit less as a sign of gratitude for everything you do for us. Make us strong in our belief, rich in our spirituality, and keep us humble. Help us as we reach for honesty: honesty to you, to all others, and to ourselves.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ; and Christ died...

For us.

Christ rose

For us.

Christ reigns in power

For us.

Christ prays

For us.

+ Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Let us share the sign of the peace with one another

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Light us up, Lord! Create in us a burning, a yearning to immerse ourselves in your Word. Bless us with fresh insights emerging from the words we hear and thoughts we embrace during this time of gathering before you. AMEN.

The Lesson from the Epistle II Corinthians 4:3-6

Anthem

The Lesson from the Gospel Mark 9:2-9

Sermon "Really?" Rev. Don Smith

Hymn *Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining* #192

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith *Belhar (sections 1,2, and part of 3)*

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;

We believe that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;

We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;

We believe that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind.

Offering Prayer

Lord we know that you do not need the money. You do not *need* a single thing from us for everything that we have is your gift to us to be used rightly or wrongly in the construction of your realm, and as we see fit. Finally, we offer ourselves to you and pray that you will show us the faithful way, glorifying you less in words and more in action.

Joys and Concerns of the People of God

Prayers of the People

...As we recall the prayer found in Matthew's Gospel **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.**

Taking the Word into the World

+Song *Come Live in the Light #749*

+Charge Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

+Benediction

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Contact

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Scriptures for Sunday, Feb. 18

Genesis 9:8–17
Psalm 25:1–10
1 Peter 3:18–22
Mark 1:9–15

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy
Ella Grace Marksberry
Emille Walden
Jean Jennings' Family
Jo Shade
Johanna Willis
Kelly Montana
Kleier Family
Lynda Jaeger
McDermott Family
Ron Carlin
Ruth Roeber

Supporting the Work of the Presbytery & the Denomination with Per Capita

Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of us, as members of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) connect, participate, and share in the work of the wider church. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Presbytery, as well as the Synod and General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better ruling elders, teaching elders and deacons, and ministers. It is how Presbyterians are helped to discern God's call in their lives. It has supported our ministries at COF through grants to CLASP and for equipment purchases for our virtual church services. Please prayerfully consider (if you have not yet done so this year) donating the \$34 per capital apportionment set by the Presbytery, for each church member.

Ash Wednesday

Join us for a joint-service with Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church at 6:30 pm on February 14.