

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

We welcome Pastor Jonathan Warren from First Presbyterian Church today while Pastor Paul is at Grace, Virginia and St. John's, Bluff Springs

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by Jean Welch, piano solo – “There Is a Balm,” arr. Gervais*

## GATHERING

*\*Call to Worship and Confession*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Silence for Reflection and Confession*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*\*Lenten Call to Worship* – sung to the tune of “What Wondrous Love is This” (ELW 666)

**All praise to God above who created the world.  
Praise to the one who made all things good.  
All praise to Jesus Christ who gave for us his life.  
All praise the Holy Spirit who calls us to love.  
All praise the Holy Three in one.**

*\*Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray ...

**C: Amen.**

*\*Sharing Christ’s Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.*

*Children’s Sermon*

*Hymn of Praise* – “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” ELW 319, v. 1

**1 O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;  
inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.**

## WORD

*Reading:* Isaiah 43:1-7

Reader: Barb Davenport

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, ‘Give them up’,  
and to the south, ‘Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.’

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*Reading:* Colossians 2:12, 3:1-14

<sup>12</sup>When you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

<sup>3</sup>So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup>On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup>But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander,

and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup>In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

P: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn of Praise* – “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” ELW 319, v. 4

- 4 **Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,  
that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.**

*Sermon:* "Let Go of the Baggage"

*Song of the Day* – “We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus” ELW 451

- 1 **We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death;  
that as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life.  
And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his,  
we will all be reunited, for he lives.**
- 2 **In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread,  
in the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead,  
God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past;  
in the losing and the winning we hold fast.**
- 3 **Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,  
glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one;  
as it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again  
in a song that has no ending. Amen**

*\*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*\*Prayers of Intercession*

*Stewardship Time*

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” arr. Jackson  
*Sung by Melissa Street*

Stewardship is about our grateful response to God's grace for us. How do you respond? If you would like to financially support our ministry together, you can place a donation in an offering box or through our website. If you would like to support our ministry together through service, you can find a list of ministry teams online or on our ministry team menu. Consider joining a ministry team, or starting a new one, today!

*–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–*

*\*Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*\*Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*\*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 and ever. Amen.**

*Communion Songs*

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” ELW 324

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.**
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.**
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,  
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.**
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.**

“You Are Mine”

- 1. I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, Be still and know I am here.**
- 2. I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.  
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.**

*Refrain: Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me. I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.*

**3. I am strength for all the despairing, Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
All the blind will see, The lame will all run free, And all will know my name.**

*Refrain*

**4. I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.  
I will call your name, Embracing all your pain, Stand up, now walk, and live!**

*Refrain*

*\*Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

*\*Closing Prayer*

## SENDING

*\*Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

*\*Sending Song – “Firm Foundation”*

*Chorus: Jesus, You’re my firm foundation, I know I can stand secure.  
Jesus, You’re my firm foundation, I put my hope in your holy Word,  
I put my hope in your holy Word.*

1. **(I have a living hope) I have a living hope  
(I have a future) I have a future  
(God has a plan for me) God has a plan for me  
(Of this I’m sure) Of this I’m sure. Chorus**
2. **(Your Word is faithful) Your Word is faithful  
(Mighty in power) Mighty in power  
(God will deliver me) God will deliver me  
(Of this I’m sure) Of this I’m sure. Chorus**

*\*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Barb Davenport  
Greeter: Hallie Mayner  
Reader: Barb Davenport  
Usher: Pat Glyshaw  
Pastor: Adam Dichsen  
Sabbatical Pastor: Paul Schwartzkopf  
Music Director: Jean Welch  
Musician: Jean Welch  
Drummer: John Demien  
Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Kelly Street  
Chancel Committee: Kris Roth  
Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Kelly Hartz	Kris Roth	Carol VanderKloot
Louis Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Cole Street	
Marilyn Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Melissa Street	

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Gaylon Martin	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Patty Nelson	Kelly Street
Marilyn Dichsen			



### Song Credits

“All Praise to God Above Who Created the World,” used by permission, Rob Passow.

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**, © 2006 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission.

“You Are Mine,” by David Haas, © 1991 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. CCLI#973583

“Firm Foundation,” Integrity’s Hosanna! Music & Integrity’s Praise! Music, © 1994. CCLI#973583



## What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, March 10, 9:30am: Worship

10:45am: Sunday School

Wednesday, March 13, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group

5:15pm: Worship Core Team Meeting

6:00pm: Lenten Potluck Supper

6:45pm: Lenten Worship & Workshop in the Great Room

Sunday, March 17, 9:30am: Worship

10:45am: Sunday School

10:55am: Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group

10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Library

6:00pm: Lenten Potluck Supper

6:45pm: Lenten Worship & Workshop in the Great Room

Thursday, March 21, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

## News Updates

### We Welcome Rev. Jonathan Warren today

Rev. Jonathan Warren is an Illinois native, having grown up in the Chicago suburb of Warrenville, and went to school at Monmouth College. Before seminary, he served a year as a missionary in Kenya, Africa. Jonathan went to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas, where he also met and married his wife, Rev. Siobhan Warren. In his 17<sup>th</sup> year of ordained ministry, Jonathan has served churches in New Mexico, Wyoming, Tennessee, and currently at First Presbyterian Church (FPC) in Jacksonville.

Jonathan is the father of two daughters: Hannah, 15, and Lydia, 12. He enjoys singing, kayaking, watching movies, and spending time with family. He's also been spotted swinging around St. John's Children's Hospital as Spider-Man. In 2023, Rev. Dichen led worship on July 23 at FPC while Jonathan took a 3-month sabbatical, so he is glad to return the favor today.

### Sunday School

Calling all kids! After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we will gather for music and then head to our classes. We have two classes this year, one for pre-K through Kindergarten and the other for early elementary. If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact Patty Nelson at 217-653-3105.

## **Church Yard Clean Up Day – March 16**

There will be a church yard clean-up day on **Saturday, March 16 from 9:00-11:00am**. Bring your rakes, clippers, loppers, etc. Direct questions to Patty Nelson.

## **Lenten Wednesday Workshops: “Grounded: Plugging into Faith”**

Lent will look a little different this year with Pastor Adam on sabbatical, but please plan to join us for midweek Lenten evenings that will help us learn about ourselves as people of faith and of Faith, and to grow deeper in our relationships with God and each other. Plan to join us in the Great Room on **Wednesday evenings through March 20** for a potluck meal beginning at 6:00pm followed by a time of learning and fellowship at 6:45pm, and take time this Lent to become Grounded in Faith. If you can bring soup or a side for the potluck, please sign up on the sheet on the counter by the coat closet. *Monica Proefrock*

## **Music Rehearsals – Join us for an Easter Choir!**

We plan to gather a group of singers for an **Easter Anthem!** Rehearsals will be on Sundays, March 17 and 24, at 10:55am after the service. Please sign up by the Coffee Sales to let us know you're interested.

Jean Welch, *Music Director*

## **Faith Family Easter Breakfast 10:30am**

Join us after worship for a delicious meal of breakfast casseroles, coffee cakes, and fruit salad. A free-will donation will be collected to support youth retreats and activities this summer. **If you would like to donate food** (casserole, coffee cake, fruit salad, milk, or orange juice), **there is a signup sheet** on the counter by the Fair-Trade Coffee sales.

## **Easter Altar Plants**

We will adorn our altar with live plants on Easter again this year. To make a donation, mark your check or envelope as “Easter Altar Flowers” and place it in the offering box or mail it to the church office.

## **Discipleship Group**

Join our monthly discussion at **10:00am on Wednesday, March 20**, in the Faith Library. This month, we'll discuss the upcoming Holy Week and what it means to us. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at [khartz@sompo-intl.com](mailto:khartz@sompo-intl.com).

### **Men's Breakfast**

Come and connect with other men as we share our faith and enjoy some good food on **Saturday, April 6**. At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for some conversation and discussion on a specific topic.

### **Book Discussion Group**

Please join Kelly Hartz on Sunday, April 7 immediately following the service for our next book club discussion on "*The Gifts of Imperfection*," by Brené Brown. Books are available for \$10 on the cabinet under the working cross in the gathering area.

### **Women of Faith Fellowship Night**

We are on hiatus during Lent, but will resume meeting in April. Look for more information to come!

### **Youth Group Help Wanted**

One of the hats worn by Pastor Adam is youth leader. In his absence, we are looking for people willing to lead an event, host a meal, or lead a youth Sunday school class. If you are interested, please let Kelly Hartz know. We have a wonderful group of youth, and you would be blessed by your time with them!

### **Free Concert & Fundraiser for Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center**

The popular Christian quartet, Two by Two and K's Creek Golf Club are hosting the Green Pastures Spring Fundraiser on **Sunday, March 17 at 6:00 pm at K's Creek, 1265 Sandusky Road, Jacksonville, IL**. Featured performers are Two by Two, Roger Wainwright, The Benz Trio, and Hope Cherry. There is no cost to attend. Free will donations to benefit Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center will be gratefully accepted. Beverages, pizza, and appetizers are available for purchase.

### **Movie at the Illinois Theater**

On Sunday, March 17 at 6:00 pm, junior high and high school students are invited to a special showing of 'The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe' at the Illinois Theater in Jacksonville. Admission is **FREE** and includes popcorn and drink. Contact Todd Sweatman at 217-370-2008 with any questions, and to secure you or your group's reservation. This movie is part of special events for youth sponsored by the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches, Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church, and the Illinois College Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Chaperons will be available from the Illinois College FCA during the event. Invite friends, connected to church or not! It's just an evening of fun for local junior high and high school students!

**Contribution Envelopes for 2024** are available in the gathering area.

### **Crisis Center Foundation Supply Collection**

*Help those in crisis in the Jacksonville Area.* The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches and member churches are collecting much-needed items for the Crisis Center Foundation and their clients. The Crisis Center Foundation is a shelter for women, men, and their dependents looking to get away from their abusers while receiving the care and help they need to process their trauma while striving towards independence. Located in Jacksonville, IL, the facility is open 24/7 and provides a wide selection of services to help transition those in need to a safe and happy life. Trained staff is available on their 24-hour hotline at 217-243-4357 to discuss our services and to plan a path forward.

Needed items include:

Toiletries: Shampoo, Conditioner, Bath Soap, Deodorant, Toothbrush/paste, Shaving Supplies, Combs/Brushes

Clothing: Socks - all sizes, Underwear - all sizes

Baby Items: Diapers, Pull-ups, Wipes, Lotion, Powder

Gift Cards: Walmart, Dollar General, Gas Station

Shelter Supplies: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kitchen Towels, Dish Cloths, Hot Pads, Storage Containers

We are collecting these items **until March 24, 2024**; please place your donations in the blue box in the Mission and Ministry Center (coat closet) Thank You! Pick up a handy list of needed items on the counter by the coffee sales.

### **Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea**

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

### **Sign-Up Sheets**

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*