

Welcome to . . .
The Presbyterian Church of Saint David
March 8, 2020 - Second Sunday in Lent

Opening Responses [*from Eggs and Ashes, Ruth Burgess, Chris Polhill*]

Gathering God, our rock and shelter,
we are here to meet with you.

Travelling God, our way and wonder
we are here to meet with you.

Summoning God, our joy and adventure,
we are here to meet with you.

Hymn: Unto the hills around 81

Prayer: (said together)

Almighty and merciful God,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much
the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws.

We have left undone those things which we ought to
have done;

and we have done those things which we ought not to
have done.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Spare those who confess their faults.

Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to the world
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O merciful God, for his sake,
that we may live a holy, just, and humble life
to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

To all who confess their sins and resolve to lead a
new life, Jesus says: "Your sins are forgiven."

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only
God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

RESPONSE in Preparation for the Readings:

Listen for the Word that God has spoken;

**Speak, Lord, to our speaking,
speak, Lord, to our listening,
speak, Lord, to our souls' deep understanding.**

The Word of God: *Genesis 12:1-4a*

John 3:1-17

L> For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

ALL> Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Blessing, Prayers for Others

Communion

Prayer:

**We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament
you have given us your Son,
who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life.
So strengthen us in your service
that our daily living may show our thanks,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn: As when the Hebrew prophet raised 189

Closing Responses

From what we know to what we have yet to discover

God is calling us on.

From all that binds us to the truth which frees us

God is calling us on.

From the blessings of today to the possibilities of tomorrow

God is calling us on.

Go in peace.

Amen.

Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."¹ ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.