

16 March 2003
2nd Sunday of Lent
Seasonal Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings for Today
Genesis 17:1-7; Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Where do we find life? God calls Abraham to live in relationship with him and be blessed. Sarah laughs at the idea. The psalmist rejoices in God's blessing of all, both great and small. Paul follows up on the Abrahamic blessing but makes it clear that Abraham did not earn the blessing it was more a matter of acceptance and faith. Jesus warns the disciples that when we try to accumulate blessings we miss them. When we give ourselves away, when we give ourselves over to God, then we find the joy that has eluded us.

Members of Session

Moderator Michael H. Anderson
Clerk Bari Brake

Class of 2003

Bari Brake

Class of 2004

Jay Gerber
Arthur Olds

Class of 2005

Ken Hall
Betty Stuart

Greeters Betty Stuart
Flowers for March Opal Northrop & Marion Olds

Prayer Before Worship

Michael Hollings & Etta Gullick

Lord, I thank you for teaching me how to live in the present moment. In this way I enjoy each simple task as I do it without thinking that I must hurry on to the next thing. I do what I am doing with all my ability and all my concentration. My mind is no longer divided, and life is more peaceful. Thank you for teaching me how to do this, and please help me now to show others the way to learn to trust you more completely and to do everything which has to be done at your time and your speed. AMEN.

Announcements

The Week at a Glance:

Today 9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Worship

Special Thanks to Katie and Gerald Bills for all the work on the church, cleaning, repairing, and repainting; not just making the nursery and Sunday School rooms ready for action after the storm damage, but the side entrance and annex entry have been refreshed and look great too!!!

Budget Summary

	<u>February</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Receipts	+ 2,094.70	+ 5,137.13
Disbursements	- 4,528.47	- 7,315.93
	- 2,433.77	- 2,178.80

In Our Prayers Our Nation & Church, Paul Alkire, The Anderson Family, Lois Beard, Sarah Beard, Virginia Buttrey, The Dittman Family, Anita Freeland, The Halls, Dottie Hart, The Himmegers, Ralph Miller, Wavoline Murray, Harold Neff, Frieda Northrop, and Michelle Smith.

Anderson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Welch; Beulah Humble Prebyterian Church, Elizabeth; First Prebyterian Church, Buckhannon; Kariguini, Giakanja.

Next Sunday's Lessons:

3rd Sunday in Lent

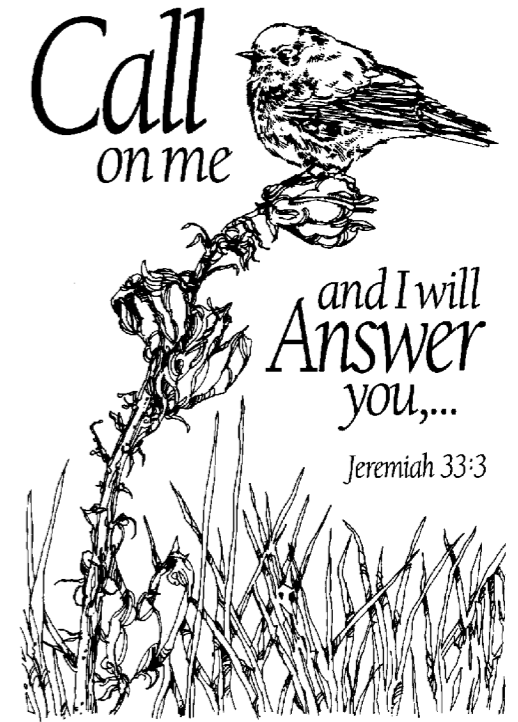
Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Announcements may be printed if received by the pastor by Wednesday and don't forget to let Michael know if you are ill or in want of a visit. He can be reached at 684-0941 home, or 299-2759 cellular. The cellular number is local. In addition Michael's EMail address is mhanderson@charter.net and the church's Internet web page is:

<http://www.creeds.net/churches/smpres.htm>

St. Marys
Presbyterian Church

303 Washington Street



*Where Jesus is Lord,
the Bible is God's Word, and
Family is Sacred.*

Order of Worship

16 March 2003 2nd Sunday of Lent

“Does a person gain anything if he wins the whole world but loses his life?” - Mark 8:36

Assemble in God’s Name

(☞ Those who are able, please rise)

PRELUDE

Love

“If That Isn’t Love”

INTROIT ³²⁰

Doane

“I Am Thine, O Lord”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: *Praise and fear the Lord!*

People: Glorify and stand in awe of God!

Leader: *Praise God in the great congregation;*

People: Before God all shall bow down.

Leader: *I shall live for and serve the Lord.*

People: We will proclaim God’s deliverance to our children and grandchildren.

Leader: *Praise and fear the Lord!*

☞ OPENING HYMN # 89

Yigdal

“The God of Abraham Praise”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God who made a covenant with Abraham your servant, who tested his faith, and who renewed the covenant through the ages, we humbly bow before you to confess our sin of trusting in our own ways rather than putting our faith in you. Forgive us we earnestly pray, for we trust in Christ's death on the cross for our salvation. We seek to come after him in daily living by denying self, taking up our cross and following him. We do so solely through your grace in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Proclaim God’s Word

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

HEBREW TESTAMENT LESSON

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16 pg. 16

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 4:13-25 pg. 206

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Peace! Be Still”

H. R. Palmer

Master, the tempest is raging!

Master, the terror is over,

The billows are tossing high!

The elements sweetly rest;

The sky is o'er shadowed with blackness,

Earth's sun in the calm lake is mirrored,

No shelter or help is nigh:

And heaven's within my breast,

"Carest Thou not that we Perish?"

Linger, O blessed Redeemer,

How canst Thou lie a sleep,

Leave me alone no more;

When each moment so madly is threatening

And with joy I shall make the blest harbor,

A grave in the angry deep?

And rest on the blissful shore.

Master, with anguish of spirit

The winds and waves shall obey My will,

I bow in my grief to day;

Peace, be still!

The depths of my sad heart are troubled;

whether the wrath of the storm tossed sea,

O waken and save, I pray!

Or demons, or men, or whatever it be,

Torrents of sin and of anguish

No water can swallow the ship where lies

Sweep o'er my sinking soul!

The Master of ocean and earth and skies;

And I perish! I perish, dear Master;

They all shall sweetly obey My will;

O hasten, and take control!

Peace be still!

Peace be still!

They all shall sweetly obey My will;

Peace, peace be still!

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:31-38 pg. 60

SERMON

Mr. Anderson

“Creative Insecurity”

☞ APOSTLES’ CREED

pg. 12

Prepare to Serve God

☞ HYMN #293

Breslau

“Take Up Thy Cross, ’ the Saviour Said”

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

Offertory

Lonesome Valley

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

☞ Doxology #544

☞ Prayer of Dedication

Suffering God, you told us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus. We’re still not sure we want to go that far. We had hoped that becoming followers in this day and age would be a more rational business; we had hoped to fit our religion in the spare corners of our lives. It wasn’t supposed to be an inconvenience. Yet you continue to call us, and we squirm uncomfortably. Teach us to respond gratefully to your invitation. Teach us to sacrifice — not only for others, but for you. And take what we can give right now, transforming it into an offering of our deepest selves. In your Son’s name we pray. AMEN.

THE PRAYERS

Announcements

Joys and Prayer Requests

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Our Lord’s Prayer

☞ CLOSING HYMN #190

St. Christopher

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

☞ THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

☞ CHORAL BENEDICTION ³⁷⁸

Olivet

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

POSTLUDE

Judas Maccabeus

“Thine Is the Glory”

Welcome Visitors! We are glad you chose to worship with us today! You may find today’s hymns, the service music and liturgical readings, which aren’t printed in the bulletin, in The Hymnbook.

Please help us to get to know you by signing our guest book and making yourself known to the pastor and those around you. May God bless your worship experience this day and go with you through the week.