

First Presbyterian Church, Annapolis, Maryland
March 8, 2020 – 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship
Second Sunday in Lent



PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

✠ Please rise in body or in spirit. **Bold** in unison.

NOTICES OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Minute for Mission (see announcement)

(Please complete and pass the greeter pads down the pew and back again.)

PRELUDE - Prelude on *Richmond*

Healey Willan

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00) - *The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONI

✠ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ of the comfortable you call us from our securities and sameness down that unknown path which leads to God's heart.

With trust, we place our hands in yours and follow.

Companion of our sleepless nights,

You beckon us out of the shadows of our fears.

Calling us to bring our doubts and questioning hearts.

With humility, we listen to those answers we do not expect, or even understand.

Word which creates out of nothingness. You fill us with life where we see only emptiness. You keep your promises when we break ours.

May we allow your grace to transform us into faithful disciples.

✠ **HYMN 12** - *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we least expect it, even when we are not ready, God comes to us, calling us to trust, calling us to follow, calling us to set aside our foolish lives, for the grace-full ones which are offered to us. Let us confess how often we choose not to follow.

THOSE ASSISTING THIS MORNING - **Preacher:** Richard Jones; **Liturgists:** Maggie Leffler (8:30), Erin Jones (11:00); **Time with Children:** Miss Good (11:00); **Ushers:** Dick Shakeshaft, Barb Pratt (8:30), Tom, Sarah, Jane, Billy, & Sam Bodor (11:00); **Acolyte:** Adeline Jorgensen (11:00); **Discovery:** Chris & Kelly Friends (11:00); **Safety:** Leanne Kreis, Emily Downey (11:00); **Minute for Mission:** Jacob Hancock, Gregg LeBlanc.

ABOUT REV RICHARD JONES, GUEST PREACHER - Richard lives in Annapolis and is a member of Baltimore Presbytery. He serves as a Chaplain at Anne Arundel Medical Center. Originally from Pittsburgh, he is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and has served congregations in Iowa, Minnesota, and Michigan. He is married to Dr. Adrienne Spirt and has two children Hannah, a Jr. at Dickinson College, and Nathaniel, a freshman at the Key school.

SUSPENSION OF COMMUNION - Due to the increasing intensity of the flu virus, Session decided to postpone the celebration of the Lord's Supper this month. According to the PC(USA) *Book of Order*, the Lord's Supper is required quarterly; as virus concerns increase, the Session is developing a plan to address worship and day-day operational practices.

STAFF NEWS - Lisa is on vacation today, returning to the office tomorrow.

LOOKING AHEAD IN LENT

The Way: You Don't Choose a Life, You Live a Life

Lent is a time of reflection and there's nothing like a pilgrimage to conjure that up. Inspired by passages in the scriptures that talk about the journeys, roads and pathways of life, we will make our "way" together through this poignant season. Sometimes things happen in our lives that cause us to be awakened to a new perspective and we begin to reassess the life road we are following, the directions we are going. Ash Wednesday is a time in the church where we talk of "repentance" which literally means to turn around and head in a new direction. We hope you will join us in worship along *The Way*.

Wednesday, March 11 - Taizé Worship, Sanctuary, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

A monthly service of prayer, scripture and chant co-hosted with St. Mary's parish, this month held in our sanctuary. Free parking available behind St. Mary's church.

March 15 - Third Sunday of Lent, Service of Healing & Wholeness

Rev. Rzepka will preach "The High Way" from Luke 16:19-31. Dedicate CLAMS items.

UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus or Sarah. We look for answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives. Yet you continue to keep watch of us, Promise Giver, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives, or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the night. You will not stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You will always be our help, whether or not we recognize it or accept it, even as you remained faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (Silence.)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Our hope, our help, our peace, our joy all come from God, the One who loved us, and the world so much, that Jesus came to bring us salvation.

**Keeper of our souls, be with us; Watcher of our days, lead us;
Salvation of our lives, have mercy on us. Amen.**

HYMN 434, VS. 1, 2 - Restore In Us, O God BAYLOR
*Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.
O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your power;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flower.*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN (11:00)

(Pre-k to 1st grade children may attend Discovery;
2nd-5th grades remain in worship. Worship Bags and Red Wagon available at rear.
Complete and return questionnaire to the Activity Room for a surprise!)

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER (11:00) - O God, Our Help, in Ages Past ST. ANNE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE - Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

ANTHEM (11:00) - Great is Thy Faithfulness arr. Dan Forrest
(The text to this morning's anthem can be found in *Glory to God*, no. 39.)

SECOND SCRIPTURE - John 3:1-17

SERMON "Our Experience, Nicodemus, and God's Love"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

✦ **HYMN 490 - Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters** BEACH SPRING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Concluding with the Lord's Prayer using "debts" and "debtors," *Hymnal*, page 35.)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY - Cantilena Josef Rheinberger

✦ DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ all creatures here below;
praise Holy Spirit ever more; praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.*

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

You trust us enough to place your blessings in us, so may we be as faithful in offering them back to you, so others might be kept in their loneliness, might be fed in their emptiness, might receive hope in their despair. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

✦ **HYMN 483 - Dearest Jesus, We Are Here** LIEBSTER JESU

✦ BLESSING

POSTLUDE - Old Hundredth Henry Purcell

Lisa Rzepka, Transitional Pastor

Bob Muckenfuss, Music Director & Organist / Miss Good, Family Ministry Director
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Partner with the Caibarién congregation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Church of Cuba
The National Naval Memorial of the PC(USA) / An Earth Care Congregation of the PC(USA)
Partner with Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren, Czech Republic
Covenant Church with the Haiti Restoration Partnership

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Church	Community
Sun 3/8	SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT	
	8:30	Worship (sanctuary)
	9:30	Education Hour
	9:30	Listening Session - <i>Transportation</i> (FH)
	10:30	Coffee Hour (FH)
	11:00	Worship (sanctuary)
	5:00	Youth Fellowship (Youth)
	5:00	Celtic Circle (sanctuary)
	5:45	ACT Circle (Library)
Mon 3/9		12:00 Noon AA (FH)
		7:15 ACOA (Music)
		8:00 Monday Night AA (FH)
Tues 3/10	10:00	Circle 2 (West home)
	7:00	PNC (KC1a)
	6:30/7:00	Deacons Dinner/Meeting (FH)
		12:00 Noon AA (FH)
		4:00 STAIR Workshop (FH)
Wed 3/11	12:00	Staff (KC1a)
	4:00	Bible Study (KC1a)
	7:00	Film Lenten Circle (ZW House)
		12:00 Noon AA (FH)
		7:30 Taizé Worship (sanctuary)
Thurs 3/12	9:00	Archives Project (KC6a)
	1:00	Grief Lenten Circle (ZW House)
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal (Music)
		12:00 Noon AA (FH)
		5:30 MD Matters (FH)
Fri 3/13		12:00 Noon AA (FH)
Sat 3/14	10:00	Circle 5 (Gilhooly home)
	11:00	Memorial & Reception - <i>Rob Smith</i> (FH)
Sun 3/15	THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT; NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
	8:30	Worship (sanctuary) - <i>Service of Healing & Wholeness</i>
	9:30	Education Hour
	10:30	Coffee Hour; Cuba VBS Presentation (FH)
	11:00	Worship (sanctuary) - <i>Service of Healing & Wholeness</i>
	3:00	Spirituality of Parenting (The Conduit)
	5:00	Youth Fellowship (youth rooms)
	5:00	Celtic Circle (sanctuary)
	5:45	ACT Circle (Library)
		9:30 CPT Worship (Hunting Ridge Pres. Church)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT CE CLASS - studying the Old Testament in KC4a will take a brief break, reconvening Sunday, March 22. Class will conclude for the program year on Palm Sunday.

TRANSPORTATION LISTENING SESSION TODAY - 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall. Enrique Peñalosa, former mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, said “an advanced city is not a place where the poor move about in cars, rather it’s where even the rich use public transportation.” What is the current system of transportation costing you? Is it time with your family because of the amount of time spent commuting? Are you missing out on church functions or other social activities because you do not feel comfortable driving at night? What would you change about the current transportation system to make life better? Share your stories!

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP TONIGHT! - 5:00 pm. Thank you Heimann family for providing dinner.
REMINDER: Youth Campus Care save the date - Saturday, March 21, 9:00 am-noon.

FISH BANKS - were distributed last Sunday (and available throughout church). They will be collected Palm Sunday, April 5. Proceeds to support PC(USA) Presbyterian Disaster Relief.

CUBA VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SLIDE SHOW & INFORMATION SESSION - Sunday, March 15, during 10:30 am coffee hour. For questions, Contact alisonwhitacre@comcast.net.

- See first hand the experience leading VBS in Caibarién.
- Ask question of those who participated.
- Deadline for application for the July 21-29 trip is APRIL 15.
- Apply online (<https://www.annapolis-presbyterian.com/application-for-vbs-cuba>).

SOFTBALL 2020 - The church participates in a league with other local churches. The season consists of eight games on Mondays or Wednesdays in June/July. Games are at 6:30 pm and move quickly due to game rules. Our team, the "Dukes of Gloucester," plays at the fields behind the Annapolis Middle School. We have a regular roster of 1-2 dozen players and just as many fans. To join the fun, email the Captain (vince.panella@gmail.com). Go Dukes!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Again this year, FPC will co-host with St. Anne's. Registration is now open and online: <https://preschoolforhearts.wufoo.com/forms/very-big-story-camp/>.

HEARING AIDS, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & BIBLES AVAILABLE FROM USHERS. SANCTUARY IS EQUIPPED WITH T-LOOP; SET HEARING AID TO "T" POSITION.

LENTEN CIRCLES

Circles this month are happening! If you missed the sign-up last week and would still like to join a circle, read below and be in touch directly with the facilitator.

1. **2020: The 400th Anniversary of the Landing of the Mayflower.** OVERVIEW: The New England Historic and Genealogical Society posted a timeline of events leading to the 1620 Mayflower voyage. The timeline starts with the Protestant Reformation and its impact on religion in England, the establishment of the Anglican Church and Protestant sects, the religious turmoil caused by kings and queens of England, the threats and impacts of abolishing Parliament, and the settling of New England through the Great Migration, with most seeking religious freedom. Christine West, while not an historical scholar, enjoys studying the settlement of colonial New England. She is prepared to provide this timeline presentation and lead a discussion of the goals, challenges, struggles, successes and outcomes surrounding the Mayflower adventure. This lecture one Sunday before Easter. Email Cecilia Richardson, cfnegri@hotmail.com.
2. **Women's Book Group.** OVERVIEW: Come join in fellowship to explore the formation of an ongoing book group for the women of the church. During the Lenten season, we will explore books that will form a reading list for the rest of the year. Organizational details and future meeting times will be decided upon at the first meeting. Here is an opportunity to make new friends, engage in interesting conversations, and investigate new topics under the facilitation of Julie Carlson, ladsmom@gmail.com.
3. **Celtic Worship.** OVERVIEW: This service pays tribute to our faith in God and is drawn from the liturgical traditions of Iona and North Umbria through prayers, community engagement and music. The service music is contemplative and lively. The prayers are earthy, holy and inclusive. The service combines the meditative silence, the simplicity of utterance, and the faithful commitment to care for the earth and those within it. This program will be conducted by Pat Foye and Linda Hanifin Bonner who have participated in the Iona program and are ordained elders. The program includes weekly prayers and music – no sermon – and focuses on reflections of worshipers. The format includes Celtic music, reflection, program and opening prayers, bible reading, song and joint prayer and additional reflection. Led tonight by Rae Jean Goodman, on theme of "Peace & Justice." Circle meets on **Sundays, March 8, 15, 22, and 29, 5:00-5:45 pm, sanctuary.**
4. **Spirituality of Parenting.** OVERVIEW: Believing that parenting is a divine offer for spiritual growth, this Circle offers the opportunity to come together with other families in the same stage of parenting in order to make connections, share and discuss ideas surrounding children and spirituality while also engaging in fellowship. The focus for this group is parents with a child or children under five years old with Rev. Lisa and Miss Good facilitating. Meets in **The Conduit, 3:00-5:00 pm, Sundays, March 15, 22, and 29.** RSVP miss@annapolis-presbyterian.com.
5. **Grief: Loss of a Loved One.** OVERVIEW: With the loss of a loved one there is a great deal of busyness as arrangements are made, friends and family coming together, gifts of food and flowers, tears, and hugs as we remember. What happens after the services are over and our friends and relatives go back to their "normal" lives? We are left to enter a new way of living without that person whose presence gave meaning to each day. Over time we will find our way to happiness in what was shared and to look forward to a future blessed by memories of those we love. Contact Marion Schilder, mfschilder@gmail.com. **Thursdays, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 1:00-2:00 pm, ZW House,** over coffee & cookies! Please join in the journey to hope and peace.
6. **Introduction / Reintroduction to ACT.** OVERVIEW: Interested in getting more involved with the community or perhaps just to have a better understanding on what the top issues are in our area then this is the Lenten Circle for you. Learn about ACT (Anne Arundel Connecting Together), its work, and develop relationships with members you may not know. There will be trainings on relational meetings, listening sessions, power, and an overview of the various ACT teams (e.g., education, housing, etc.). Come and learn how ACT builds power to transform the world as it is into the world as it should be. Meetings are **5:45-7:00 pm in the church library, starting today, March 8,** after the first Celtic Worship. RSVP to Becky Hagee, thehagees@gmail.com.
7. **Film Circle.** OVERVIEW: Do you prefer to stretch your imagination via film? Well, this is the group for you! Use this time to review four movies that challenge your view of life, people or ideas. Come together with other movie lovers to use film as the vehicle to explore your spirituality and humanity this season. The first film to be discussed is "The River and the Wall" which is available on Hulu or Amazon Prime. The Lent schedule is **Wednesdays, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 7:00-8:30 pm in the ZW House.** Contact Cecilia Richardson if you care to join us, cfnegri@hotmail.com.



**FPC MISSION STATEMENT: WE ARE CALLED TO DO JUSTICE,
LOVE KINDNESS AND WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD. Micah 6:8**