

**Astoria First United Methodist Church**  
*February 21, 2021*

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*First Sunday in Lent*

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mary Frances**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

**Kristin Hammond**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**Pastor Michael**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Mary Frances**

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame. Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. God leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. **AMEN**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*“Genesis 9:8-17”*

**Mary Frances**

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

**SPECIAL MUSIC***“How Can I Keep from Singing”***Kristin Hammond****SCRIPTURE READING***“I Peter 3:18-22”***Mary Frances**

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION****Pastor Michael****UNISON PRAYER FOR CONFESSION****Mary Frances**

We have lists of things to do, for all the areas of our lives. Our lives are so time bound and duty bound that we feel imprisoned in them. Now we are challenged by Christ to take a journey of discipleship. We don't feel ready for this journey. We need more time. And we complain and cry about how much we have to do. Forgive us, Lord, when we place so many "duties" in the path to serving you. Reset our priorities so that we will be ready to commit our lives in your service. Lord, help us to be ready when you call us. Help us to courageously answer the summons you bring. Let us place our trust in you in all things. AMEN.

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION****WORDS OF ASSURANCE****Mary Frances**

We have the promise of forgiveness of sins when we turn to God and even in those times in our own journey where have felt lost and confused, you invite us to wilderness when we come back to God return to God to those who repent and turn in faith. May God keep you in grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater faith and trust, and bring you in peace to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**HYMN OF PREPARATION****Mary Frances Gunn***”Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”***UMH#500****GOSPEL LESSON***“Mark 1:9-15”***Pastor Michael****SERMON***”Baptized into a Life of Resistance***Pastor Michael****JOYS AND CONCERNS****Mary Frances****PASTORAL PRAYER****Pastor Michael**

## 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.*

**BENEDICTION:**

**Pastor Michael**

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC  
as they join us for worship.**

**As a follow-up to our recent Four Week Advent Study,  
We are beginning another study in the new year.  
Topic: Extraordinary Men and Women in the Bible  
Our next study will be Tuesday, February 23, 2021.  
Time: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. by Zoom**

**Our Stewardship / Pledge Drive was in January and it's not too late to  
send your pledge cards into the church office As Soon As Possible.**

**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.  
Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.**

**If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.**

**We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.**

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