

Astoria First United Methodist Church
February 28, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances Gunn

CENTERING MUSIC

“Eagle’s Wings”

Stephen Morden

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Hicks

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us. Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God makes a solemn promise to lead us to the place we are invited and called to travel. Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news. Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people. Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life. Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us. Lent calls us to journey with God. Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

SCRIPTURE READING *“Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16”*

Sue Hicks

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Here I Am Lord”

Janet Todd & Stephen Morden

SCRIPTURE READING

“Psalm 22:23-31”

Sue Hicks

You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive. Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

UNISON PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Sue Hicks

Guiding Lord, even though we hesitated on our Lenten journey; we vowed to come with you through all the trials and fears toward the Cross. Today we face the challenge which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you in service? We would like to think that we can do that, but we are aware of how many times we have turned away from service and instead focused on our own desires. Remind us again of the commitment you would have us give if we are to become disciples. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, up these steps toward the Cross. **AMEN.**

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sue Hicks

Jesus calls us to deny ourselves. Yet we trust in our own works rather than in God’s grace. Jesus calls each of us to take up our cross. Jesus calls us and as we travel this road with Jesus, we discover that the journey of devoting our life to following him, to live as a disciple of Jesus is never easy. Yet we know that Christ remains always with you. Live this day with the assurance that you will not be on this journey alone. In the name of Christ, You are forgiven. **AMEN.**

SCRIPTURE READING

“Romans 4:13-25”

Sue Hicks

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null, and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Be Thou My Vision”

Mary Frances Gunn
UMH#451

GOSPEL LESSON

“Mark 8:31-38”

Pastor Michael

SERMON

“I Got My Mind Set on You”

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

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, March 2, 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.
