SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 16, 2025
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH — Steven Phillips

PRELUDE — *Song of the Larks* (Isaac Mingus, cello) — Johannes Brahms

based on Psalm 122

CALL TO WORSHIP — Linda Smith

It is good to be together in God's house!
We are standing on holy ground.
God, you gave us this place and these people.
We've come to worship you.
This is a new day of thanksgiving.
Turn our heart and our lives to you, O God,
as we sing your praise!

***HYMN 804** — *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* — MARION

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

With voice as full and strong
as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the sturdy hymns of old,
the psalms of ancient days. (Refrain)

Yes, on through life's long path,
still chanting as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day,
in gladness and in woe:

At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. (Refrain)

Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King. (Refrain)

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Rev. Dr. Susan F. DeWyngaert

Giving God, you have planted us in fertile ground,
but we confess there have been times
when we failed to produce the fruits of your Spirit.
You care for us like a loving gardener,
but we have hoarded your produce
and ignored your clear call to faith and service.
Forgive us, we pray.
Redeem our mistakes and the many times
we have refused to answer your call to love.
Bend our hearts and lives to yours.
God of Mercy, hear our prayer.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 582** (v. 1) *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Jacob's Ladder* Spiritual/arr. Gilbert Martin
(The Chancel Choir)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

page 950 **SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Where's the Fruit?* Rev. DeWyngaert

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Linda Smith

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors:
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *How Firm a Foundation* arr. Ken Medema
(Isaac Mingus and Steven Philips)

***DOXOLOGY 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDRETH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Brief Statement of Faith* PC(USA) (1991)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Linda Smith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image…
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation…
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 450** *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. DeWyngaert

POSTLUDE *Te Deum* Marc-Antoine Charpentier

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

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