

Sunday, February 22, 2015

9:00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

PRELUDE: Land of Rest Nancy Raabe

THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

People: According to Your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.

Pastor: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

All: Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit.

*HYMN 64 We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God Ellacombe

CALL TO PRAYER AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O God, most high and holy, we acknowledge that in ancient times You gave Your commandments to all Your children. We have tried to keep them, but have failed so often. We have heard Your voice, but have paid little attention. We have seen the path of duty but have not followed it. We have taken short cuts in time and service and hoped You would not notice.

For all the ways we have fallen short of Your hopes and expectations for us, we ask for Your forgiveness and pray that the days and weeks ahead may be more pleasing and acceptable to You... (moment of silent reflection)

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PROMISE OF NEW LIFE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 32

SPECIAL MUSIC: The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem, Prospect, arr. Nancy Raabe

GOSPEL LESSON St. Matthew 4:1-11

*HYMN 543 Blessed Assurance Assurance

SERMON: TEMPTING OFFERS Rev. Ernest Smart

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*HYMNAL 359 Apostolic Affirmation of Faith (Apostle's Creed)

THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross arr. Nancy Raabe

THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER AND THE PASTORAL PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Leader: Let us pray..

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*using trespasses*)

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, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*HYMN 622 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Cwm Rhondda

THE BENEDICTION (Unison)

May the zeal of the Lord be with us in these Lenten days. May God's power and grace hold us close and guide our ways. And may we have eyes wide open to the opportunities of service that arise before us, all in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

POSTLUDE: March G.F. Handel

WELCOME NOTES FOR THIS FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

HOW GOOD IT IS that you are part of our worshipping community on this special day in our Lenten pilgrimage. The season of Lent is a deeply personal opportunity to experience cleansing, renewal, hope and purpose under the guidance and presence of Jesus Christ. Such are the blessings of faith. Share them around with those who need them.

LAST SUNDAY. With snow and ice on our roads, it seemed wise to cancel Sunday services. For those interested, bulletins are available on the piano. See what you missed!

EVERYONE IS INVITED to join us for a light reception in the church lounge after worship. Come and meet 'old' and new friends. We continue to thank those who have prepared it.

"ART WITH A HEART" Our program for "Stamp the Pig" in support of Art with a Heart had also to be postponed last week. An alternative date is being explored.

ASH WEDNESDAY'S "SOUPER- SUPPER." This was a special occasion for all our Christian congregations who worship here. Many thanks to all who helped with their donations of soups and a variety of tasty breads.

OUR EMPTY BOWLS MISSION PROJECT will be held in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, March 8. Sign up sheets are on the lounge piano. Please see Barbara Pour for more details.

WINTER VISIONARIES. We trust that everyone has received a copy of our winter Visionary. Spare copies are available on the Lounge piano for family and friends. Once again we are very much indebted to Barbara Lewis for her talents in design and editing.

PASTORAL CARE is high on our list of priorities. So please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Ernest Smart, at any time, either for yourself or someone you know. Best contact number: 410-893-9470.

Thought for the Week Ahead:

"Better to try all things and find all empty than
to try nothing and leave your life a blank."
- Charlotte Bronte-

ST. ANDREW'S CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 22, 2015



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**THE REV. ERNEST R. D. SMART, *Pastor*
Patricia McKewen Amato, *Music Director***