

**First Sunday in Lent  
February 21, 2021  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA**

**OUR MISSION:** Christ calls us to be faithful disciples who strive to be joyful in our worship, tender in our life together, and daring in our outreach.

We acknowledge we worship on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional homeland of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the Métis Nation.

Minister: The Rev. Amanda Currie

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Liturgy: Graeme Mitchell & Bill Sgrazzutti

L: Lent is a journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem, toward the cross, toward resurrection and new life.

We will be transformed and blessed on this journey.

**P: We are pilgrims on a journey.  
We are travelers on the road.**

L: We undertake the journey knowing we will not remain the same.

**P: We are pilgrims on a journey.  
We are travelers on the road.**

L: The journey will take time. We will feel the strain in our bodies and in our souls, yet love will urge us onward.

**P: We are pilgrims on a journey.  
We are travelers on the road.**

L: Let us start the journey with prayer:

**P: God of all times and places, as we begin the pilgrimage from life to death to new life, you will surprise us and nurture us. We put our trust in you, knowing you will guide and provide for us. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.**

Hymn: Lord Jesus, who through forty days #200

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**God of mercy,  
we begin this Lenten season in confession.**

**We do not live according to your ways,  
but according to our own.**

**We condone violence,  
participate in systems of injustice,  
and use power to our own advantage  
at the expense of others.**

**Forgive us, we pray,  
when we are tempted to follow paths  
other than those you set before us.**

**Teach us your commandments;  
help us to turn from evil in its many guises,  
and turn us towards your kingdom drawing near.  
In covenantal love, remember us, we pray,  
and be for us, once more and always,  
an ark of safety and new life.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Children's Time

Hymn: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

Sung Response: **The Lord will come and not be slow,  
God's footsteps cannot err.**

**R To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

**Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

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! R**

Good and upright is the Lord;  
**therefore the Lord instructs sinners in the way,  
leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches them the way they should go.**

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and  
faithfulness, for those who keep God's covenant  
and decrees. R

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

Ministry of Music:  
"You are mine"

Marianne Woods  
Haas/Cuddy

Sermon: *Leaning into the Promises of God*

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

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

Hymn: We lay our broken world #202

We Present our Gifts to God

Offertory

Cade Eastwood

Doxology (#830) and Prayer of Dedication:

**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.**

### **WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME**

Hymn: In suffering love #696

Closing Responses:

From water to wilderness:

**God's covenant continues;  
God's kingdom comes near.**

On stone and in hearts:

**God's covenant continues;  
God's kingdom comes near.**

From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

**God's covenant continues;  
God's kingdom comes near.**

We will follow Jesus on the Lenten path,  
**for where he is, we would be also.**

Benediction

Choral Amen (#780): **Amen, amen, amen.**

Aaronic Blessing (#619):

**The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine upon you,  
and be gracious unto you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you his peace.**

Postlude:

Marianne Woods  
"God be with you till we meet again" Rankin/Tomer/Leavitt

## HYMNS for Sunday February 21<sup>st</sup>

#200 - Lord Jesus, who through forty days

Lord Jesus, who through forty day  
for us did fast and pray,  
teach us with you to mourn our sins,  
and at your side to stay.

As you with Satan did contend,  
and did the vict'ry win,  
oh give us strength to persevere,  
in you to conquer sin.

As thirst and hunger once you bore,  
so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and daily live  
by your most holy word.

And through these days of penitence,  
and through the Passiontide,  
Now, evermore, in life and death,  
Lord Christ, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life  
of suffering overpast,  
an Easter of unending joy  
we may attain at last.

Leaning on The Everlasting Arms

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Chorus:* Leaning on Jesus Christ my Saviour,  
Safe and secure from all alarms  
Leaning on Jesus Christ my Saviour,  
Safe and secure from all alarms

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Chorus*

What have I to dread what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Chorus*

#202 – We lay our broken world in sorrow at your feet

We lay our broken world  
in sorrow at your feet,  
haunted by hunger, war and fear,  
oppressed by power and hate.

Here human life seems less  
than profit, might and pride,  
though to unite us all in you,  
you lived and loved and died.

We bring our broken towns,  
our neighbours hurt and bruised;  
you to unite us all in you,  
you lived and loved and died.

We bring our broken loves,  
friends parted, families torn;  
then in your life and death we see  
that love must be reborn.

We bring our broken selves,  
confused and closed and tired;  
then through your gift of healing grace  
new purpose is inspired.

O Spirit, on us breathe,  
with life and strength anew;  
find in us love, and hope, and trust,  
and lift us up to you.

#696 - In suffering love

In suffering love the thread of life  
is woven through our care,  
for God is with us: not alone  
our pain and toil we bear.

**There is a rock, a place secure  
within the storm's cold blast;  
concealed within the suffering night  
God's covenant stands fast.**

**In love's deep womb our fears are held;  
there God's rich tears are sown  
and bring to birth, in hope newborn,  
the strength to journey on.**

**Lord, to our hearts your joy commit,  
into our hands your pain,  
so send us out to touch the world  
with blessings in your name.**

**In suffering love our God comes now,  
hope's vision born in gloom;  
with tears and laughter shared and blessed  
the desert yet will bloom.**

### **Pray with your First Church Family**

*Whether you are worshipping with us online or receiving this  
bulletin and sermon by mail, please join us in prayer.*

### **Please pray for...**

- All those who are caught in cycles of conflict or addiction, that they may find hope and the promise of new life.
- The family and friends of Laura Black who died peacefully on February 13<sup>th</sup> at the age of 105 years.
- Those who are sick or injured in our congregation, including, Eva Roesner and Carole Cann.
- All who are sick with Covid-19 and for the health workers who are caring for them.

### **Praise God for...**

- The gift of covenant relationship with God, and God's faithfulness to us even when we are not faithful.
- The rainbow – a sign that there will be life after loss and hope after destruction.
- Our church family and the love we continue to share with each other even when we cannot gather together.

### **This Week at First Church**

Feb. 21	12:15 pm	Sunday School
	1:00 pm	Coffee Hour
	3:00 pm	Lent with the Moderator: "Leaning into the Promises of God"
Feb. 22	7:00 pm	Youth Membership Class
Feb. 23	noon	Freedom 55'ers
	7:30 pm	Lent Book Study
Feb. 24	7:00 pm	Board of Managers
Feb. 25	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	8:00 pm	Choir Chat
Feb. 27	10:00 am	Worship Committee
Feb. 28	10:30 am	Worship
	12:15 pm	Sunday School
	1:00 pm	Coffee Hour

**The Flowers in the Sanctuary** this morning have been placed here in loving memory of Elsie Nisbet, in remembrance of her birthday, February 20.

**Lent with the Moderator: Leaning into the Promises of God:** Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 3:00 pm CST. You are invited to spend an hour with the Rev. Amanda Currie, Moderator of the General Assembly, and begin the Season of Lent together with Presbyterians across the country.

Although Lent is a time for confession and penitence, it is first and foremost a time for turning and returning to God. We will reflect on the covenant texts that show up in the lectionary readings during Lent, considering both the blessings and obligations that come with covenant relationship. As we continue to endure the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, let us begin this new season together by leaning into the promises of God.

Please register for this gathering to receive your unique link to join the meeting: **<https://presbyterian-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMufuyvrz8rG9fn0m6xt5Hrlaqy4fdXIV2g>**

*Note: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.*

**Annual Reports** Conveners, please note that reports for the congregational meeting are due into the office February 28. The congregation annual meeting will be held, May 2, 2021.

**Faithful Climate Conversations:** We need to talk -- all of us -- about climate. What better place to open up this vital conversation than within our own circles of faith? "For the Love of Creation" invites faith communities across Canada to come together to reflect, listen, share, and advocate for climate justice. **Tuesday, February 23rd, 7 to 9 p.m. via Zoom. Register at <https://bit.ly/370ekSr>**

Here in Saskatchewan, the listening part will be crucial, and for that, FLC offers three discussion guides for small groups. Join us to explore the first guide, "Creation, Climate and You," and get ready to use these guides in your own community.

Presented by KAIROS Regina. For further info, contact Laura Stewart at [arcolaura@gmail.com](mailto:arcolaura@gmail.com)

**Together in Remembrance, Together in Hope:** A virtual vigil marking one year of COVID in Saskatchewan on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 7 pm CST. All are welcome! Bring a candle. Together, we will shine our light in the darkness.

Register for the Zoom event or watch live on YouTube. Find more info at [www.covidvigil.ca](http://www.covidvigil.ca) Brought to you by a community of people of diverse cultures, worldviews, spiritualities, beliefs, and faiths in Saskatchewan.

**Office Hours** Mon.: 8:30 - 11:15 / Wed. to Fri.: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. Contact Shirley at the office at 306-522-9571 or [firstpresregina@sasktel.net](mailto:firstpresregina@sasktel.net).

Rev. Amanda Currie works from home most days and from the office occasionally. You can continue to reach her by phone or text message (306-580-8095) or by email ([revfpc@sasktel.net](mailto:revfpc@sasktel.net)). A physically-distanced pastoral visit is always possible, as well as a phone call or Zoom video call.