

Second Sunday in Lent
February 28, 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: Andrew Donovan

L: We are not the first to make the journey to Jerusalem; many have gone before us and many will come after us. From near and far, God's people gathered to celebrate God's goodness on the holy mountain.

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

L: Jesus often went to Jerusalem as a child to celebrate Passover. Now he has set his face toward Jerusalem again, knowing this time will be different.

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

L: Jesus' last journey to Jerusalem is somber. He has no illusions about what is to come. Still, he goes ahead, doing God's will.

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

L: Let us pray:

P: God of light, we want to follow in Jesus' footsteps, but we have our fears and doubts. We would rather avoid the pain and darkness on our journey. Give us courage and perseverance when the journey is

difficult and the grace to help others on the road. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Hymn: Come, ye disconsolate #195

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not been sincere Christians.
We claim to follow Jesus
but have not taken his path of sacrificial love.
We profess to be disciples,
but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.
We affirm the virtue of self-denial,
but we indulge our selfish desires
and seek earthly gain.**

**Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for sincere repentance
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Children's Time

Hymn: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Sung Response:

**The great congregation their worship shall bring
and new generations God's praises will sing.**

**R You, who fear the Lord, praise God!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God;
stand in awe, you offspring of Israel!**

For you, Lord, did not despise or disdain
the affliction of the afflicted;
**you did not hide your face from me,
but heard me when I cried to you.**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear you.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!** R

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 dominion belongs to the Lord
who rules over the nations.
**All who sleep in the earth
shall bow down to the Lord;**

all who go down to the dust,
shall bow before the Lord;
and I shall live for God.

**Posterity shall serve the Lord;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that God has done it.** R

Mark 8:31-38

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Ministry of Music
"Safe within your arms"

Paula Weber
John Cowan

Sermon: *We Are Pilgrims*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

Response: Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

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: Take up your cross #211

We Present our Gifts to God

Offertory

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: To Abraham and Sarah #478

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

HYMNS for Sunday February 28th

#195 - Come, ye disconsolate

Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish;
come to the mercy seat; fervently kneel;
here bring your wounded hearts; here tell your anguish:
earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal.

Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,
hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure!
here speaks the comforter, tenderly saying,
earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot cure.

Here see the bread of life; see waters flowing
forth from the throne of God, pure from above:
come to the feast of love; come ever knowing
earth has no sorrows but heaven can remove.

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, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

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

#211 - Take up your cross

Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if my disciple you would be;
deny yourself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill frightened spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let your foolish pride rebel:
for you the Saviour bore the cross,
to save your soul from death and hell.

Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,
and every danger calmly brave;
'twill guide you to a heavenly home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.

Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down,
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

#478 - To Abraham and Sarah

To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear:
"Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey
for I have pledged my word:
that you shall be my people, and I will be your God."

From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,
dependent for their journey on God's abundant grace
and in their heart was written by God this saving word:
"that you shall be my people and I will be your God."

We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid
can journey to the future secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word:
"that you shall be my people and I will be your God."

Pray with your First Church Family

Please pray for...

- The gift of faith to trust that God is with us through the challenges of our daily lives, and that God can do abundantly more than we would ask or imagine.
- The courage to follow the difficult path of Jesus, trusting that God will be with us.
- Nyabani Mathiang's mother, Rebecca, who is experiencing health challenges and is in hospital in Khartoum.
- Carole Cann's brother, Jack, who is grieving the death of his wife.
- All who are sick with Covid-19 and for the health workers who are caring for them.

Praise God for...

- The promise to bless God's people so that we will be a blessing to others.
- The gift that God names us as beloved children, and empowers us to live into that identity.
- 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. 28	12:15 pm	Sunday School
	1:00 pm	Coffee Hour
Mar. 1	7:00 pm	Youth Membership Class
Mar. 2	noon	Freedom 55'ers
	7:30 pm	Lent Book Study
Mar. 3	7:00 pm	Session & Board meeting
Mar. 4	1:00 pm	Bible Study
Mar. 7	10:30 am	Worship
	12:15 pm	Sunday School
	1:00 pm	Coffee Hour

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

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 Brought to you by a community of people of diverse cultures, worldviews, spiritualities, beliefs, and faiths in Saskatchewan.

Empowering Women in Guatemala

In many indigenous communities in Guatemala, women face domestic violence, poverty, and discrimination. Consequently, it's difficult for women to feel safe to voice their concerns, both in their households and local civil society.

PWS&D, through workshops led by local indigenous partners, empowers women to improve self-esteem, learn about their rights and encourage political participation. Women learn the importance of health, nutrition and hygiene, in turn improving their home and family lives.

For Marta Crisóstomo, a 30-year-old mother of a young son, these workshops meant she was able to change the health of her entire family. "I learned how important it is to clean my kitchen, wash my dishes and practice good handwashing to avoid illness," she shared. Marta used the skills she learned to empower herself and her family.

This Lenten season faithfully respond to Christ's call to serve and equip vulnerable communities by empowering women with the skills and knowledge to advocate for themselves and their families.

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.

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). A physically-distanced pastoral visit is always possible, as well as a phone call or Zoom video call.