



**The First Presbyterian Church of Potsdam
February 28, 2021
Second Sunday in Lent**

THOUGHT FOR REFLECTION

"A Lenten regimen of silence, fasting and reading is not meant to dampen life. On the contrary, they are all meant to focus the soul. They sharpen consciousness and give us the opportunity to examine the real hungers, the internal noise, the dulled sense of meaning that sap a life of energy and purpose." ~ Sister Joan Chittister ~

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Please join in and speak in unison all **bolded** parts.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from When We Gather, A Book of Prayers for Worship, James G. Kirk, 167)

One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. Lead the humble and teach them your way.

Many: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

One: For you are the God of my salvation; for you I said all the day long.

Many: Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep your decrees.

One: Let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER (From When We Gather, A Book of Prayers for Worship, James G. Kirk, 229)

We seek to dwell in your presence, O God, and behold evermore the warmth of your love.

For you shelter your people during their time of adversity; you cradle them in your arms when they are afraid and lonely. You beckon us to embrace you and put an end to our fearfulness. Entering your sanctuary we give you praise for your mercy. Be pleased with our worship as we honor your name.

OPENING HYMN

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding" #191, verse 1 (see PDF)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (From When We Gather, A Book of Prayers for Worship, James G. Kirk)

Have mercy upon us and hear our prayer, O God. We have failed to live in the light of your covenant. You set your rainbow above us, yet clouds of unbelief darken our days. Distrust wells within us; fear, not hope, is our watchword. Your beloved bids us follow, but we are slow to obey. Without your grace, we are fruitless and inert. In mercy renew us and bring us to life, through Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READINGS

PSALM 51:1-2, 10

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

MARK 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

SERMON

"Lent Invites us to Clear the Clutter" with Rev. Shaun Whitehead

HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

#39, verses 1-3 (see PDF)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Ground of all being, Mother of Life,
Father of the Universe,
your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings in heart and in action.
May there be food today for the human family
and for the whole earth community.
Forgive us the falseness of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us in our times of conflict
but lead us to new beginnings.
For the light of life, the vitality of life
and the glory of life are yours
now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Standing on the Promises of Jesus" #838, verses 1-2 (see PDF)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Thank you very much for joining us in today's remote service.
May God's health and peace find you in these uncertain times.

Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Shaun Whitehead, University Chaplain, St. Lawrence University
Music Leader: Dr. Keilor Kastella
Technical Assistance: Renee Stauffer

Clerk of Session: Suzanne Waters
Session Members: Terry de la Vega, Alicia Newcombe, and Renee Stauffer

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