

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Third Sunday In Lent

March 4, 2018

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

**All who are able may stand.*

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude *In the Garden*
Jubilate Ringers

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call to Worship (from *Psalm 19*)

The Heavens are telling the glory of God.

The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

We celebrate the steadfast love of God, our Creator.

Surely God is faithful to all who live in covenant.

From the sun's rising to its setting, the creation speaks.

Day and night, earth's creatures announce God's works.

The commandments of God are clear, enlightening the eyes.

God's law is perfect, calling forth our best.

God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.

God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The ordinances of God are true and righteous.

In following them, we gain wisdom and strength.

The Prayer of Praise

O Holy One of Israel, in Christ You call us to dwell in Your favor; we gather to praise You and worship Your Name. You are the rock that keeps us from falling, the Redeemer Who can save us from sin. You set us upon the sure foundation of Your commandments; you cleanse us from all unrighteousness through the gift of Your Son. Accept our words as we honor Your judgment and be pleased with our worship as we respond to Christ's call. Praise be to You Almighty God – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

*The Hymn 394 *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

The Prayer of Confession

The Choral Response

The Assurance of Pardon

God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.

God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Believe the Good News of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen

*The Gloria Patri p. 581 in the Hymnal

*The Peace and Greeting
The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ and exchange this ancient greeting with worshipers seated near you.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Exodus 20:1-17* p. 82 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalm 19* p. 613 in the pew Bible

The Anthem *I Want to Be Ready* Howard Helvey, arr.

*I want to be ready, I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John.
John said the city was just four square and he declared he'd meet me there.
Oh I want to be ready, I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John.
Oh, John, Oh, John, what do you say? That I'll be there at the coming day.
I want to be ready, I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John.*

The Gospel Lesson: *John 2:13-22* p. 113 in the pew Bible

A Moment with the Children

*The Hymn 157 *I Danced in the Morning*

The Epistle Lesson: *I Corinthians 1:18-25* p. 202 in the pew Bible

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

The Sermon *The Cross Stem*
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

*The Affirmation of Faith

from *The Book of Common Worship*
(*Philippians 2:5-11*)

March 4, 2018

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.**

**Therefore, God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession
The Lord's Prayer

p. 35 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering
The Gathering of Our Gifts
The Offertory

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Doxology p. 606 in the Hymnal

**O Lord our God, we want to follow all Your commandments – to love only
You, not worshiping the things of this world; to love our neighbors freely, not
desiring for ourselves something they possess. Accept these offerings, we pray,
and teach us to be generous, giving fully of ourselves that we may truly be the
body of Christ in this world. Amen.**

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME. . .

*The Hymn 826

Lift High the Cross

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Postlude



The Rev. Allen H. Fisher, Jr., *Pastor*
The Rev. Brittany Tamminga, *Associate Pastor*
E. Bruce Harvey, Jr., *Coordinator of Christian Education*
Mary Ann & Larry Casey, *Choirmasters*
Amy L. Shirk, *Organist*

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES 3/4-11

Today (3/4)

Worship Services, <i>S</i>	8:30 & 11am
Church School	9:45am
Fellowship Committee, <i>CF</i>	12:15pm
PW Neverending Cir., <i>Mary Szymanski</i>	12:30pm
Sacred Dance, <i>U</i>	3:30pm
Cantate, <i>UCR</i>	5pm
Youth Fellowship & Dinner, <i>FH</i>	6pm

Monday (3/5)

PW Circle of Joy, <i>CP</i>	10am
Cong. Retreat Committee, <i>CF</i>	7pm

Tuesday (3/6)

Men's Breakfast, <i>Bob Evans</i>	7:30am
Dolce Flutes, <i>CR</i>	6pm

Wednesday (3/7)

Prime Timers' Outing, <i>Brock's</i>	11:30am
Lenten Lunch Service, <i>St. George's</i>	12pm
Meditation, <i>CP</i>	6:30pm

Thursday (3/8)

Ladies' Bible Study, <i>MH</i>	9:30am
Handbells, <i>S</i>	6pm
Adult Choir, <i>CR</i>	7:30pm

Saturday (3/10)

Congregation Retreat, <i>Camp Hanover</i>	
Micah Breakfast, <i>FH</i>	6:30am

Sunday (3/11)

Congregation Retreat, <i>Camp Hanover</i>	
Worship Services, <i>S</i>	8:30 & 11am
Church School	9:45am
Sacred Dance, <i>U</i>	3:30pm
Cantate, <i>UCR</i>	5pm
Youth Fellowship & Dinner, <i>FH</i>	6pm
Session, <i>MH</i>	7pm

Location Key:

<i>CP</i> : Church Parlor	<i>MH</i> : Middle House
<i>S</i> : Sanctuary	<i>CH</i> : Church House
<i>EB</i> : Education Building	<i>CF</i> : Conference Room
<i>U</i> : Undercroft	<i>FH</i> : Fellowship Hall
<i>UCR</i> : Choir Room in Ed. Building	<i>CR</i> : Choir Room

Birthdays this Week

March

- Bailey Nance, Barbara Katrina Nance, Diane Peterson, Donna Ridge, Margaret Roberson
- Becca Fisher, Helena Sidebotham
- Joan Gaston, Tiffany Newell, Mason Theado
- Mary Raye Cox, Cindy Watson
- Sean Garrison
- Anne Zimmerman
- Bill Baer, Cindy King, Steven Kuiper, Lincoln Stevens
- Daniel Kunkler, McAlister Leimbach, Lillian Zimmerman

Hospital Visitor 3/4-10

Eleanor McCord, 710-1159

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Fredericksburg, VA 22401
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Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper.

March 4, 2018

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

8:30 and 11:00 am

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us!

To aid you in our liturgy, we want to acquaint you with our following custom: In the *Lord's Prayer*, we use the words, "*Forgive us our debts... our debtors.*"

We encourage you to stand for singing, if you are able, as the organ sounds the first note of introduction. When appropriate to the hymn, the organist and choir will lead the congregation in singing "*Amen.*"

Assistive listening devices (amplified earphones and telecoilneckloops), and **large-print bulletins** are available from the ushers.

Child care is provided in the Education Building for infants through kindergarteners.

All worshipers are encouraged to sign the Attendance/Friendship pad, greet your friends, and welcome visitors.

The flowers today are given by Courtney & Herb Pelley to the glory of God and in loving memory of Anne Brooke Gibson.

Capsule of Concern: Dora Mae Crooks, Paul Ludwig, Billie Plank, Bob Snow, Susie Techlin

Lectionary readings for next Sunday, March 11:

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Service Attendants

Liturgist
Tom Theado

8:30 AM
Sanctuary Guild
David & Tammy Hancock

Greeters
Brian & Ashley Raska, Mike & Susie Kuliasha

Ushers
Tom & Karla Lewis, Mary Raye Cox, Lamoine Knepfelkamp

Elevator Assistant
Porter Blakemore

11:00 AM
Sanctuary Guild
Mike Fritz

Greeters
Preston & Lynn Simms, Scott & Kim Fischer

Ushers
Ralph & Betsy Lewis, Barbara Gary, Linda Sweet

Elevator Assistant
Pete Humes

Nursery Attendants
8:30 & 11:00 services
Lexi & Jamie Loder, Chip & Amy Ellis, Russ Morris & Brittany Harvey, Brian & Kim Liska

The **2018 Confirmation Journey** Explorers and Covenant Partners will meet this morning in the Middle House, 2nd floor, at 9:45 a.m. They will focus on baptism. Next week there will not be a class on Sunday morning due to the congregational retreat.

Youth Fellowship activities today - Middle and high school youth will meet for our regular Youth Fellowship dinner at 6:00 p.m. We will continue to explore the basic tenets of other faiths as a way of coming to better understand our own. *Next Week:* Congregation Retreat. No evening Youth Fellowship activities.

The **Congregational Retreat Planning Committee** will meet on Monday, March 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

On March 7, the **Prime Timers** will meet for lunch at Brock's Riverside Grill, 503 Sophia Street, at 11:30 a.m. The planned visit to Ferry Farm has been canceled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Re-creation Retreat is the theme for the congregational retreat on March 10-11 at Camp Hanover. You may register using the form outside the sanctuary or in the lobby of the Education Building. All participants are asked to bring recyclables - cardboard, plastic, newspaper, cans (no glass). The deadline is TODAY. **The retreat will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday at Camp Hanover, 3163 Parsleys Mill Rd, Mechanicsville.** There are directions and a what-to-bring list with the registration form.

Would you like to **help feed hungry students and their families** in the Fredericksburg City Schools? Our church, along with 3 to 5 other Micah churches, began this project in February. We need 2 or 3 volunteers who will deliver 10 to 20 meal bags either to Lafayette Upper School or Walker Grant Middle School once or so per month at most. In April, our church will package about 140 of these bags. The time is to be scheduled. We are partnering with Stafford Food Security, Inc who is already providing these meal bags to schools in Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties. Please contact Bruce Harvey, 373-7057, (bharvey@fredericksburgpc.org) if you would like to assist. Thanks.

The **Prime Timers' April outing** is to Meadow Event Park, the birthplace of Secretariat, on April 4. We will meet at church at 9:45 a.m. to drive to the Meadow for the museum and tram tour. The cost is \$15 per person. Lunch will be at Jake's Place, 511 Thompson St, Ashland. Please give your payment of \$15 to either Patti Myers or Bruce. We will carpool. Please call Patti Myers at 540-656-2705 for a reservation by March 18.

Adults are invited to the **Know Your Neighbor: An Interfaith Event** Sunday, March 25, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Fredericksburg Library (formerly Headquarters) on Caroline Street. Members from our church, the Fredericksburg Islamic Center, and Beth Shalom Temple will come together for a time of fellowship and sharing. Each faith community will have a limit of 25 participants due to the space at the library. If you wish to participate, please sign-up today at the table outside the sanctuary or in the lobby of the Education Building. More events are planned for the coming months.

Volunteers are needed to need to host **Pitch, Hit & Run** and the **Junior Home Run Derby** at Sunshine Ballpark in Fredericksburg, on Saturday, April 7, and Sunday afternoon, May 6. This is a free MLB program for boys and girls ages 7-14. No baseball skills are necessary to help and times are flexible. Contact Jim Toler, 540-207-1202, (jimtoler4@yahoo.com) to sign up. Softball and baseball players in our congregation and community are welcome to participate in these events!

Presbyterian Women Recognition Gift. Presbyterian Women at our church are part of a community committed to nurturing our faith through prayer and Bible study, supporting the mission of the church worldwide, working for justice and peace, and building an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom. Anyone who supports the purpose in any way is participating in Presbyterian Women. The PW Recognition Gift is an opportunity to say thank you to those who lead by example in mission work both in our own community and in the world. Funds from the recognition gift allow Presbyterian women (individuals and groups at all levels of the church) to receive critical leadership training and to support designated mission efforts.

Our Church's **nominating committee** has begun its work of nominating elders and deacons for election by the congregation. If you sense that you may be called to serve in one of these positions or you know of someone you feel could be considered for service, please inform one of the committee members: Marjolijn Biljefeld, John Conway, Connie Barnes, Macon Fino, Wayne Hibbeler, Libby Humes, Ed Foresman, Jim Toler, Doreen Vaughn, or Stacy Whalen.

During Lent, you will hear a couple of moments for mission about the **One Great Hour of Sharing** Offering and there is also an article in the March newsletter. The OGHS offering is one of the four special offerings of the PC (USA). OGHS goes to presbytery and General Assembly to support the Presbyterian Hunger Program - 36%, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - 32%, and the Self-Development of People - 32%. The offering offers assistance in natural and man-made disasters, feeding the hungry, and helping people learn skills that will help them to be independent. You are invited to pray for and support the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. You may use the envelopes in the pew or in your offering envelope box.

Each Wednesday during Lent, the downtown area churches host a **Community Lenten Worship Service**. Services begin at noon and last approximately 30 minutes, followed by a light luncheon.

Mar. 7: St. George's Episcopal Church

Mar. 14: Shiloh Baptist Church Old Site

Mar. 21: Fredericksburg United Methodist Church