

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Fifth Sunday In Lent

March 21, 2021

9:00 a.m.

**All who are able may stand.*

Bold type spoken by the congregation

Self-service assistive listening devices are located on top of the bookcase at the rear of the Sanctuary on the Princess Anne St. side.

GATHERING. . .

***MASKS ARE TO BE WORN THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE.
PLEASE REMAIN SEATED FOR THE HYMNS.***

The Prelude

Walk Through the Valley
Jubilate Ringers

Bill Ingram

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

Change My Heart, Oh God

The Call To Worship

Macon Fino, liturgist

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in love.

The Lord makes a new covenant with us.

We are God's people; the Lord is our God.

Jesus said, "When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself."

Blessed be the God of our salvation, Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

The Prayer of Adoration

O God, Who fashioned the covenant and sealed it with the promise of life everlasting, we praise You for mercies that are boundless and sure. Your ways are just, Your grace is unending. You have sent us the Christ in Whom lies Your promise that all things will be made new. We come before Your throne of grace with the assurance that You will meet us as we call on Your Name. Hear us now as we offer our worship and be pleased with our praise, as we respond to Christ's call. Amen.

The Hymn 63

The Lord is God

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

*With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might, O people, love the Lord your God,
the source of truth and light.*

At night or day, at home, away, together and apart, O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.

*The Prayer of Confession

O God of forgiveness, we pray for new life as we confess our old ways. We hear of Your promise amid our own sense of self-doubt. Hope is proclaimed, yet we seek guarantees. Christ calls us to obedience, but we set conditions. When called on to follow, we ask to what end. We applaud commitment, but we treasure our comfort. Forgive our reluctance to walk in newness of life. Have mercy on us in Jesus' Name ...(time for silent confession)...

*The Assurance of Pardon

The Gloria Patri (spoken)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen.**

*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. For those worshipping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

The Anthem

O, My God, Bestow Thy Tender Mercy

Pergolesi/Hopson

*O, my God, bestow Thy tender mercy. Blot out my transgressions; cleanse my sin.
O, God, bestow Thy tender love, restore me, forgive me, uphold me; from all my sins, O hide Thy face.
O, my God, bestow Thy tender mercy; cleanse my sin. Restore the joy; forgive me, uphold me, O God, hear me.
I cry to Thee. Hear Thou my prayer. Cast me not away. Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
My mouth shall show forth Thy praise.*

The Epistle Lesson: *Hebrews 5:5-10*

The Gospel Lesson: *John 12:20-33*

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

The Sermon

Magnetic
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

*The Affirmation of Faith

(from "A Brief Statement of Faith")

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

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

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

The Hymn 546

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound; may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

Savior when your love shall call us, from our struggling pilgrim way, Let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey. May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.

The Charge and Benediction

The Postlude

Prelude in D Minor

J.S. Bach

KINDLY REMAIN SEATED DURING THE POSTLUDE. YOU WILL BE DISMISSED BY OUR SAFETY USHERS FROM THE BACK TO THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY. WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING.

Announcements for March 17-24

Holy Week Schedule

March 28: **Palm/Passion Sunday** - Worship, 9am (Sanctuary/YouTube)
April 1: **Maundy Thursday** - 7pm with Communion (Sanctuary/YouTube)
April 2: **Good Friday** - 7pm, Tenebrae service of shadows (Sanctuary/YouTube)
April 4: **Easter Morning**
 Community Service led by pastors of Micah Churches - 6:30am (FUMC lawn)
 Outdoor Worship - 8am (our Church lawn surrounding the Sanctuary)
 Worship Service - 9am (Sanctuary/YouTube)



In order to help us plan, please reserve your seating for Sunday services through Realm or by calling the Church Office .
We hope to see you soon.

Use Realm to Reserve Your Seat for Sunday Worship by FRIDAY NOON

If you would like to participate in Worship in the Sanctuary this Sunday, please make a reservation by calling the church office, 540-373-7057, Monday - Friday between 9:00 a.m. and Noon. You may also make your reservation online by using Realm. If you have not yet set up your Realm log in, visit <http://onrealm.org/FredericksburgP> and click "Forgot Password."

A New Option for Easter Day

Session has approved conducting a brief Easter Day service at 8:00 a.m. on the Church grounds surrounding the Sanctuary. This service is intended to include households and families who are not yet ready to join indoor worship services. We anticipate leading this service from the church steps.

You are invited and encouraged to bring lawn or camp chairs, or blankets if you wish. Please maintain appropriate social distance and wear masks for this service as well.

The traditional Easter Day service will be livecast on YouTube from the Sanctuary with in-person worshipers at 9:00 a.m. Please reserve your space in advance as overflow seating in the Fellowship Hall is subject to space limitations.

Contact the Church Office if you have questions.

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, March 21:

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 *or* Psalm 119:9-16;
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Weekly Meetings & Activities

Wed. (3/17) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)
 Contact Marsha Luckett (marshajluckett@gmail.com)
Thurs. (3/18) — Women's Bible Study, 9:30am (Zoom)
 Jubilate Ringers, 6pm (Sanctuary Balcony)
 Adult Choir, 7:30p.m. (Zoom)
Sun. (3/21) — Worship, 9am (Sanctuary & Youtube)
 Adult Church School Classes—Schedule on page 2
 Sacred Dance, 3:30pm (Undercroft)
Mon. (3/22) — C. E. Committee, 6pm (Zoom)
Tue. (3/23) — Men's Breakfast Group, 7:30am (FH & Zoom)
 Contact John Howe (jhowe1969@cox.net)
 Book Study, 7pm, (Zoom) Details on page 2
Wed. (3/24) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)

Create a Realm Log In

Realm® is our updated church record keeping system. You can register for Service and other events, access your contribution statement, update your personal information, give online, and more.

You should have received an email inviting you to join Realm. If you didn't receive an invite, visit <http://onrealm.org/FredericksburgP> and click "Forgot Password." We hope you help us maximize our new system by registering soon. Contact the Church Office, 540-373-7057 (cjforsing@fredericksburgpc.org), if you have questions.



Church Family News:

Capsule of Concern: Rachel Erb, Kim Fischer, Doris Glidden, Doris Gulatsi, Donna Hughes, Donn Langfitt, Karla Lewis, Debra Myers, Billie Plank, Larry Repanshek, Pam Werner

Nominating Committee: 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: Elder Beth Huber, Elder Adam Nelen, Deacon Susie Davis, Steve Eckel, Tristin Fidler, Debe Garrison, Mike Gibson, and Margaret Rowe.

Birthdays this week March 21-28

21. Jen Rowe, Pam Werner, Isla Wainwright
22. Jean Walker, Georgia Lee Strentz
23. Andrew Horne, Debbie Eckel
24. Larry Casey, Richard Harrison, AnnMarie Lackey
25. Evan Foresman, Michelle Gibson, Mike Fritz, Robert Gloyd
26. Patty Toler, Joshua Hole, Carole Schwartz, Lindsey Williams
27. Julie Hamlett, Ann Monroe Jacobs, Delia Rabatin



Weekly Lenten Midday Service (Virtual)

Each Wednesday noon throughout Lent Micah will host a virtual midday service online. Here is the link: <https://micahfredericksburg.org/4106-2/>

Preachers scheduled include:

- March 17 - Rev. Will Dickinson, St. George's Episcopal
- March 24 - Rev. Chelsea Morse, Street Church



Valued Volunteers: Major League Baseball is bringing back **Pitch, Hit & Run and Junior Home Run Derby** youth programs this spring and summer at Sunshine Ballpark on Saturday, May 15, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to host the events. We'll employ COVID safety measures and thankfully the restrictions on outdoor gatherings are easing. All we need now is YOU! Please let Jim Toler know if you're willing to help out and what hours you're available. More information is available by emailing jimtoler4@yahoo.com. Here are the details on the events. Please share the info with area baseball and softball leagues and parents of young players.

Our Church's **Labyrinth** will be available to walk in the Fellowship Hall, during Church Office hours, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., March 23 through April 2. The labyrinth is an ancient tool for prayer and meditation, consisting of a winding path that begins at the periphery and leads to a central space, and then out again by the same path. Unlike a maze there are no blind alleys or dead ends. In Christian history and practice, it is most famously



associated with Chartres Cathedral in France, where an eleven-circuit labyrinth was inlaid into the floor of the sanctuary in the thirteenth century. Walking the Labyrinth as a spiritual practice can draw us into a deep experience of prayer--of allowing our hearts to lay open before God.

Additional information about walking the Labyrinth will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Please wear your mask and observe distancing.

Adult Ministry and Education (Youth participation is welcomed and encouraged)

Virtual Conversations in the Public Square Series, Sundays in Lent at 11:00 a.m.

The topic of this year's Conversations in the Public Square Series is *Connecting with Creation: How is the Church called to Engage?* We hope you, along with your neighbors, will join us for these important conversations.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89363943223?pwd=QmtmbExwNDlZL25sKOJOZUJyTE1JZz09>

March 21 – High School Youth

In this session, some of our high school students will help us to determine our carbon footprint and explore ways to reduce our harm on the environment.

March 28 – James Lockett

This session will confront the question, how do our actions and decisions as a congregation tie us to the global web of life?

Book Study: Learning to Speak God from Scratch

Tuesday, 7:00 pm, led by Jen Rowe

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88274047075>



Holy Week Schedule:

Labyrinth in the Fellowship Hall - 9am to 1pm

March 28: Palm/Passion Sunday - Worship, 9am (Sanctuary/YouTube)

April 1: Maundy Thursday - 7pm with Communion (Sanctuary/YouTube)

April 2: Good Friday - 7pm, Tenebrae service of shadows (Sanctuary/YouTube)

April 4: Easter Morning

Community Service 6:30am (FUMC lawn)

Outdoor Service 8am (TPC Sanctuary lawn)

Worship Service 9am (Sanctuary/YouTube)

MLB Pitch, Hit & Run and Junior Home Run Derby to make a comeback After a year off, Major League Baseball's youth baseball skills events are coming back to the Fredericksburg area and ball fields across the nation. Area boys and girls are invited to participate in the free Pitch, Hit & Run and Junior Home Run Derby on Saturday, May 15, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Sunshine Ballpark, 1200 Wicklow Dr., off Fall Hill Avenue, Fredericksburg. Players may come anytime during the day and take part in one or both competitions. COVID precautions will be taken. These free events are sponsored by Sunshine Ballpark, Germanna Community College and the Presbyterian Church of Fredericksburg. For more information email jimtoler4@yahoo.com.

For Pitch, Hit & Run, players ages 7-14 are divided into four age groups to test their baseball/softball skills. Age group winners may earn the chance to compete at Washington Nationals Park and ultimately at the MLB World Series. For general information, go to PitchHitRun.com. Parents should register their players online at: <https://pitchhitrun2021.leagueapps.com/events/2011198>

The Jr. HR Derby is open to boys and girls 12U and 14U. For more information go to JrHRD.com. Parents should register at: <http://jrhrd2021.leagueapps.com/events/2016040>.

Support and connect - For months, many of us have been missing our connections to fellow members. We have several church families that are facing challenging circumstances and preparing meals is a way we can support and ease their burden of care.

If you are able to provide and/or deliver a meal, please contact the church office for more information.



Volunteer videographers needed. No experience required! Now that the CoViD spike is on the wane, we are again looking to expand our team of videographers that produce the live stream of the services in our Sanctuary for our YouTube channel. Training will be provided. This is a great opportunity for anyone who has an interest in broadcast video production. Contact:

Milton McNatt, mmcnatt2@verizon.net, 540-373-2852;

Ed Foresman, eforesm@gmail.com, 540-207-1314;

Kris Betsill, kahbets@gmail.com, 202-731-2384.



"I want them to know there's hope"

By Arritt

"I didn't have a good upbringing. My father was abusive. I spent a lot of time on the street. At 11 or 12, I started using drugs to make the pain go away.

After school, kids go home. I didn't. I stayed on the streets after school. Sometimes, I would stay at a friend's house or sleep in the alleyways between houses. I had feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, not belonging, feeling lost, not knowing who I was supposed to be. I became an addict. I was walking the streets at night, doing drugs. It was so cold some nights I was afraid to sit down. I knew if I sat down I might not get back up. My mother's father froze to death. She used to tell me, 'If you're cold, keep moving. Keep your blood flowing.' I never forgot that.

By morning, I'd be so exhausted. One day, I made it to the community breakfast. I broke down, physically, mentally. I went to the hospital for 15 days. After that, I went to Respite House. That's where it seemed to turn around. I never felt the love I felt there. I didn't understand it at first. It was like a family. People came in and fixed dinner and we prayed before meals. From the Respite House, I went into housing.

I'm in the Bridge to Work program. One day at Micah, one of the volunteers was talking about how important appearances are when you go to a job interview. She wanted me to put on a nice shirt and tie, so I did. I'd never worn a suit in my life. It made me feel like I was so much more than I ever realized. I felt like a man. Like I was somebody. I cried. My father always told me I was never going to be anything. After a while, you start to believe it. For the first time in my life, I thought, 'He's wrong. I am somebody.'

Even though my earthly father was abusive, I have a heavenly father who loves me. And that keeps me going. For the first time in my life, I'm all right. I'm thankful to be alive. People say I seem happy. Before, I moped around a lot. I've come such a long ways. If there is anyone out there who feels hopeless, I want them to know there is hope. They can turn their life around."

Your special offering will be used to help our collaboration of churches "Love your Neighbor." A financial or volunteer commitment helps us build a just, kind and humble community where all neighbors belong, participate, meet each other's needs and engage in meaningful relationships.

Send your gift to the church office or donate online at bit.ly/loveyourneighborow. For more information, visit www.dolovewalk.net