



seeking:

*How do we
begin again?*



SAINT LUKE'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023 10:30 am



In Preparation for Worship

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." - John 3:16-17

Prelude

Good Christian Friends!

arr. Cathy Moclebus
David Clark, handbells

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship*

Leader: What is it like to begin again?

People: **It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.
It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.
It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.
It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.**

Leader: May we find God in our seeking.

People: **May we learn as we go.**

Leader: May we be brave enough to begin again.

People: **Let us worship the God of new beginnings.**

Opening Hymn* 663

Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun

Prayer of Confession*

**God of new life, you call us into unknown places, and we bury our heads in the sand.
You promise all the stars in the sky, and we doubt it can be true.
You speak of new life in the Spirit, and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.
Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you.
Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you.
Hear now also the prayers on each of our hearts...**
(a moment of silence is kept for personal prayers)

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness*

Song of Praise 606*

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

John 3:1-17

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Tell Us Our Story

Catherine Anne Thomas

All children are invited to come forward for Tell Us Our Story. Afterwards, parents will walk their children via the covered sidewalk to Room 119 for "Frolic" (ages PreK and K) or Room 117 for childcare (birth through 3's.) Since this is Family Worship Sunday all elementary children will remain in worship with their families so that they may participate in Communion. Worship books and other faith formation resources are available on the worship carts and ledges in the narthex. At the conclusion of worship, any family seeking to learn more about children and communion may come to the front of the sanctuary to learn more about communion from a pastor and receive resources to continue the conversation at home.

Sermon

For God So Loved

David Lower

Affirmation of Faith*

from A Sanctified Art

**We believe in a God who meets us in the shadows,
who welcomes our questions,
who invites us to begin again.**

**We believe that Jesus showed us a new way,
a deeper faith,
a more compassionate existence.**

**We believe that all of our beginnings should return us to this foundation,
and that no matter how many times we lose our way,
God always welcomes us home. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Prayers of Thanksgiving 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion Music

Medley of Traditional Hymns

The Offering

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Gilbert Martin
The Chancel Choir

All are invited to participate in support of God's work at Saint Luke's, in one of three ways:

1) Giving envelopes, available in each pew, may be placed in the offering plate as they are passed.

2) Give online via slpres.org/giving.

3) Send a text message to 73256, starting with the keyword GIVETOSLPRES followed by the amount.

Closing Hymn* 286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Benediction*

Postlude*

Lasst uns Erfreuen

arr. Gordon Young

Please join us in the church lobby for fellowship and conversation!

For the latest Saint Luke's news and information, go to slpres.org or scan the QR code for the latest Highlights.

