

ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

3rd Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 15, 2020 – 10:30 A.M.

THE GATHERING OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *Introduction in G* William Walond

*WELCOME AND MOMENT FOR GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

(Let the Congregation prepare for worship with silent prayer.)

ORGAN MEDITATION *Moderato* Benedetto Marcello

CHORAL INTROIT *Create in Me a Clean Heart* Carl Mueller

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We have gathered in this holy place,

People: to worship God together.

Leader: We have come seeking a word from God,

People: a word of assurance from the One who calls us.

Leader: We have come longing for a glimpse of God,

People: or a glimpse of the world the way God sees it.

Leader: Through our worship, open our eyes

People: and focus our sight through the lens of God's light and love.

All: Together, let us worship God!

*GATHERING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 390 *Open My Eyes, that I May See*

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy cleanse us from our sins. In the face of injustice, we often feel helpless or hopeless. We walk in darkness and refuse to walk in your light. We give in to despair about stopping physical and emotional abuse, or uniting families torn apart by forces more powerful than them. Forgive us. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom and create clean hearts within us, O God, putting a new and right spirit within each of us. Help us to work for justice, especially to end poverty. Help us to love kindness, working especially to end abuse. Help us to walk humbly with you, opening our arms to all your children as did the One we follow and in whose name we pray, the Light of the world, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

People: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Leader: Our God fulfills his promises and is true to his word. We have confessed our sins.

God has forgiven us, because Christ died for us. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, this is the good news of the Gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*GLORIA PATRI Hymn No. 546

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Lisa Davis

(Children 3K-2nd grade may leave for the Children's Worship Service.)

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN NO. 325 *O for a Heart to Praise My God!*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

Offertory Anthem *I Have Longed for Thy Saving Health* William Byrd

*The Doxology Hymn No. 544

*Prayer of Dedication

SCRIPTURE Psalm 51:1-10 O.T. Page 483

1 John 1:5-2:2 N.T. Page 211

Leader: These are the words of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "From Darkness to Light" Rev. Elliot Smith

*THE APOSTLES' CREED Hymnal, Page 12

*HYMN OF DEPARTURE NO. 282 *God, Be Merciful to Me*

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE GREETING OF PEACE

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

*POSTLUDE * * * * *

*Those that are able will please stand.

The flowers placed in the sanctuary today are given in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Curtis Watkins and Liz Watkins by their family.

Welcome visitors and guests. We are glad that you have come to share in worship with us.

A Nursery for small children is available during the worship service in the McArn Building, Rm. 38.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

March 15, 2020

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|------------------|----------|--------------------|
| SUNDAY | 9:30 AM | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship Service |
| | 5:30 PM | Adult Social |
| WEDNESDAY | 3:15 PM | Pioneer/Choir+Plus |
| | 5:45 PM | Supper |
| | 6:15 PM | Bible Study |
| | 7:00 PM | Adult Choir |

USHER CAPTAIN: Larry Gibbes
GREETER CAPTAIN: Freddie Myers

PRAYER CONCERNS:

MEMBERS: Bettysue Webber, Susan Marshall, Jim and Gail Sinclair, Betty Coombs, Lyn Bradley, Cornelia Bittle, Emily Jones, Dan Outlaw, Fran Goodwin, Jean Dixon

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Betty Whitman (Debbie Herman's mother), Debra Taylor, Alisa K. (friend of the Blanks), Jeff Tindall (friend of Cathy Floyd), Wanda H. Hein (friend of Lindsay and Angie Guy), Lyn Neil (Jan Massalon's cousin), Clara Fife (Lisa McCaskill's mother), Tatum Stidham (granddaughter of Steenrods), Kathleen Burdin, Josie Tiller (Dickie & Kay Tiller's great niece), Sarah Horejsi (friend of the Massalons), Kristi Shuler (friend of the Marshalls/Munns), Billy Smith, Paul Spitzer (friends of the Outlaws), Mike Hintz (friend of Ellen Williams), Scotty Martin

OUR LOVE AND SYMPATHY to Louise Myers and family on the death of her sister.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| 2020 Budget | \$640,844 |
| Revenue to Date | \$142,264 |
| Expenses to Date | \$123,515 |

BYG YOUTH NEWS

No Meeting tonight.

BYG families often provide dinner for our weekly youth meetings. If you would like to minister in this manner to our youth, see John Gardner for availability.

(April 19, May 3)

MEN'S BREAKFAST

There will be no Men's Breakfast this week.

COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCH SERIES

Wednesday, March 18 – Lakeview Baptist, Rev. Jerry Dix

Wednesday, March 25 – St. Matthew United Methodist, Rev. Steve Lee

Wednesday, April 1 – Camden First United Methodist, Rev. Elizabeth Nance-Coker

Good Friday, April 10 – Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rev. John Zimmerman

All services begin at noon followed by lunch

GUEST MINISTER

Sharing in worship this morning is the Rev. Elliot Smith, who has served as the ninth president of Thornwell since 2011. Elliot is here to join with us in giving thanks to God for the long-time mutual ministry we share with Thornwell and to give thanks for the many ways the Bethesda Presbyterian Church family helps to make this life-giving and life-affirming ministry with children and families possible.

Founded in 1875, Thornwell is our ministry with children who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, as well as families facing life transitions or have experienced other family crises. By God's grace and the support of congregations like Bethesda Presbyterian Church and individual people of faith, more than 3,500 children and families were served by Thornwell across South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida through a variety of residential and community-based programs last year.

Thornwell is committed to providing a variety of family-centered, solution-focused programs and services to meet the contemporary needs of children and families being served while bringing hope, healing, and wholeness in the name of Jesus Christ.

SACKS OF LOVE

We serve 17 students at Camden High School.

The items we need most for Sacks of Love currently are:

Vegetables, beanie weenies, ravioli, soup, cookies, juice boxes

Please note that all canned items need to have pop tabs for easy opening.

Thank you so much for your continued support of this mission!

NEW MINISTER INTRODUCTION INTO PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY

Our new minister, James Woodland Davis, will be appearing before Providence Presbytery at its stated meeting this Thursday, March 19th, at First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster, 700 North Main Street. The portion of the docket that will include his introduction, examination, and reception into the Presbytery should begin between 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. Afterwards he should be able to meet outside the meeting room with Bethesda members who come to stand with him on this day. This is the last formal step for him to become Bethesda's pastor! Elder Lisa Martin will be our elder commissioner at the meeting.

THANK YOU TO THE PNC

Neal Blank, Jr., Jane Clyburn, Johnny Deal,
Patricia Geddings, Angie Guy, and Bill Nettles

The session of Bethesda Presbyterian Church wishes to express its appreciation for your work on the Pastor Nominating Committee and the result that has led you and us to the Rev. Jim Davis as our next installed pastor.

We recognize that you and the PNC had the hard work of educating yourselves as to the call process, the character of Bethesda and its needs/desires for its next pastor, and to PNC operating procedures.

It was you and the PNC who had the hard work of determining the search criteria and writing the Ministry Information Form as a part of the search mechanism. It was you who had to receive PIF's and sift through possible candidates, make calls and follow up with references, conduct interviews and make site visits.

It was you and the PNC who had to endure great excitements and great disappointments along the way for many months, and absorb to some extent the anxieties and the tensions of the congregation in the interim time as you went about your work.

We thank you for the time, toil, sweat and tears you have expended; for the time you have spent away from family and other pursuits; for the prayerful and discerning consideration of the candidates that you have encountered; and for the result that has led the church to confirm the results of your work and service to the church on the PNC.

Please accept our grateful thanks, and our wishes that God will bless your next steps and newest endeavors in Christ's name.

Yours in Christ,

THOMAS WOOLARD
Clerk of Session
Bethesda Presbyterian Church