

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

February 20, 2005

The Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call To Worship

(from Psalm 121)

Let us worship God whose help is never failing.

Our help comes from God who made heaven and earth.

God will keep us safe from all evil, and be with us from this time on.

God is our keeper and shades us from all that shall harm us.

We open our eyes to see God who knows all about us and holds us forever.

Let us worship this God of all creation.

The Prayer of Praise

You keep your eye upon us, O God; you protect us as a shield. You give us hope in spite of the disquiet that lingers within us. You lift our spirits and make us glad. All creation sings your praise; we your people laud your name. Hear us as we worship, and speak to us as we gather. For we seek to be filled with your Spirit and made alive by your abiding Word. All praise be to you O God – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

*The Hymn 482

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

*The Prayer of Confession

Great God who beckons us to move beyond where we are, we confess that we are afraid. You who called Abraham and Sarah to journey to an unknown place call us to venture in unknown ways. Yet we turn away from your call because it is an inconvenience or we are unsure of where it is you call us. You promise us new life in you and yet we are not firm in our conviction that you are our living God. We have not trusted you enough. We have been fearful of changes you call us to make. Forgive us our lack of faith. . . (time for silent confession). . .

*The Choral Response

*The Assurance of Pardon

(John 3:16-17)

For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son,

so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but 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.

Believe the Good News of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

*The Gloria Patri

p. 579 in the Hymnal

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshippers seated near you.

Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Genesis 12:1-4a* p. 9 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 121* p. 536 in the pew Bible

The Anthem “*God So Loved the World*” John Stainer

The *Epistle* Lesson: *Romans 4:1-5,13-17* p. 979 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 277 (8:30 am) “*O God, Our Faithful God*”

The *Sacrament of Baptism* (11:00 am)

*The *Apostles’ Creed* p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Baptism

The Welcome

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ’s church
to share with us in His ministry for we are all one in Christ.**

*The Hymn 498 (11:00 am) “*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*”

The *Gospel* Lesson: *John 3:1-17* p. 924 in the pew Bible

The Sermon “*In the Dark of Night*”
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

*The *Apostles’ Creed* (8:30 am) p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Prayer of DedicationDoxology, p. 592 in the Hymnal

Covenant God, through Jesus you bind us with love reaching from Abraham and Sarah to faith’s horizon. We thank you for our share with the faithful ones who have gone before. We pray that our gifts may not only be a legacy to those who come after, but show you love and care to neighbors now. In Jesus’ name we lift our offerings and our lives to your glory. Amen.

GO IN GOD’S NAME. . .

*The Hymn 361 “*How Firm a Foundation*”

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude