

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  
11:00 A.M.  
**Rev. Mark Piedmonte**  
**Music Director – Gregory Fraser**  
**\* Congregation will stand**

PRELUDE with SILENT PRAYERS: Mozart Concerto 25: 2<sup>nd</sup> Movement  
GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - During Covid, masks are required. There will be no singing other than by the minister and organist. At this time there is no need to stand during designated hymns. Hymn lyrics are provided as inserts so you may participate spiritually. We do not touch hymnals, friendship pads, Bibles, or offering plates. Place offering in plate upon entrance or when exiting.

INTROIT: “Open the Eyes of My Heart” ” *(See Insert to follow along)*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 22)

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to God;

**All: God’s face is not hidden from us when we cry to God.**

Leader: The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

**All: For dominion belongs to the Lord, and God rules over the nations.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray:

**All: God, your Son Jesus Christ bore the cross for our salvation and was raised from the dead for the redemption of the world. Give us the courage to take up our cross and follow him, that through his grace we may accept the cost of faithful discipleship and receive the joy of everlasting life with Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: “Standing on the Promises” *(See Insert)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from the wrongs we have caused. Therefore, let us confess our sin – first in prayer together then quietly before God - trusting God’s promised mercy:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and one another in our thoughts, our words and our actions. There is a brokenness in us that reflects the brokenness of our world — and it is deep and broad. Yet in your mercy and healing grace, you can restore us and empower us to walk in the way of Christ. In your mercy and healing grace, you can reform our paths toward love and justice for our neighbors and for the earth. In your mercy and healing grace, you can make your peace – your shalom – a reality in our communities and lives. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God’s mercy and healing grace are sure for each and for all. Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and restored. We are set on right paths of love, justice and peace.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE: GLORIA PATRI

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

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Leader: The peace of Christ be with all of you. **All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share a sign of Christ’s peace with each other in community.  
*(turn to extend signs of peace to neighbors from a distance)*

YOUTH MESSAGE

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Let us pray: **All: O God, send your Spirit to us to open our hearts that we might discern your Word amid the words of Scripture we read today, so that in hearing your Word we may be formed in the way of Christ for one another and our world. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-17 **Sung Response:** “Lord, Why Have You Forsaken Me” (Psalm 22)  
Mark 8:27-37

**Response to God’s Word**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord! **All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: “I AM Serious”

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

\*HYMN: “Be Still, My Soul” *(See Insert)*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Brief Statement of Faith

**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 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 be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS (Please be seated)

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE (Responsive)

Leader: Holy God **All: hear our prayer.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison)

OFFERING / DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN: “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said” *(See Insert)*

\*BENEDICTION / RESPONSE: **Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

POSTLUDE: Chopin Waltz in B Minor

9:00am 11:00am NOTE	CONTEMPORARY Worship Service – Taylor Hall TRADITIONAL Worship Service – Sanctuary; Greeter is Deacon Gloria Gubosh Today’s Liturgy courtesy Presbyterian Outlook, 2021, written by Roger Gench & provided for free distribution
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THIS WEEK: March 1-6, 2021	
Monday, March 1 Tuesday, March 2 Wednesday, March 3 Thursday, March 4 Saturday, March 6	Sharing & Caring 6:30pm Session Mtg. 6pm (See below for additional information) Prayer Shawl Ministry 1-3pm (additional information below) Bible Study 6-7:30pm NCP 855 <sup>th</sup> Stated Mtg. 11-1:30 ZOOM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS	
Tuesday, March 9 Friday, March 12 Sunday, March 14 Friday, March 26 Sunday, March 28 Thursday, April 1 Friday, April 2 Sunday, April 4	Trustee Mtg. 6:30pm <i>S'More Time with Jesus</i> : Family Bingo Nite 6pm Daylight Saving Time Begins <i>Messy Church</i> “Holy Week” 6pm Palm Sunday Maundy Thursday Good Friday Easter Sunday – One Great Hour of Sharing

- SESSION (Special Open Mtg.): Tuesday, March 2 at 6pm – to discuss plans to move the 9am worship service to Kortright Chapel.** The Session, acting on recommendations from the Worship Committee, is hoping to move our 9am service from Taylor Hall into Kortright Chapel. YOUR input is welcome as we envision a welcoming space for contemporary worship in a new, yet classic setting. Please join us on March 2 at 6:00pm and let’s get excited as the Spirit moves us!
- Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Will meet Wednesdays from 1-3pm – open to anyone interested in joining, even if you do not crochet or knit. We are also willing to teach anyone who wants to learn. The purpose of the ministry is to provide prayer shawls or lap blankets for someone who is in need of an expression of God’s love. For further information, contact Cindy Scukanec 410-726-7713.
- Middle School Massanetta Summer 2021 Trip – MARCH 25 FIRM INTEREST DEADLINE**  
 The NCP Youth Ministry Leaders Team is working hard to plan its Middle School Massanetta Summer 2021 Trip, scheduled for June 22-25, 2021. MARCH 25 has now been established as “FIRM INTEREST” DEADLINE. Names received by then will be reported to Massanetta as NCP’s official group. A Google link to register names has been created. Please go here to register names: <https://forms.gle/RbA36sXhndBDM8Mz8>. FYI – A COVID CONTINGENCY PLAN is also in discussion with several options being looked into. Details as needed will follow. Let’s keep spreading the word, inviting any/all middle school youth: kids and grandkids; members and non-members; churchy or non-churchy; friends-of-friends-of-friends! Whether we’ve got one or one-hundred youth – let’s pray and trust the Spirit to help us make this a faith-enriching experience. And let us give thanks for the possibilities we have before us – none of which are impossible with God! For more information on the planned trip or on the NCP Youth Ministry Leaders Team feel free to contact Pastor Mark Piedmonte-Silvoy (Buckingham Presbyterian) at 610-428-3135 or [pastorpiedmonte@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpiedmonte@gmail.com).

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## INTROIT: OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.  
Open the eyes of my heart;  
I want to see you; I want to see you;  
To see you high and lifted up,  
shining in the light of your glory.  
Pour out your power and love  
As we sing “Holy, holy, holy.”  
Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.  
Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

## OPENING HYMN: STANDING ON THE PROMISES

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.  
    **[Refrain]** Standing, standing,  
    Standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
    Standing, standing,  
    I’m standing on the promises of God.
2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**
3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
Bound to Him eternally by love’s strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword,  
Standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**
4. Standing on the promises I shall not fall,  
List’ning every moment to the Spirit’s call.  
Resting in my Savior as my All in all,  
Standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

## INTROIT: OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART

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To see you high and lifted up,  
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Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.  
Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

## OPENING HYMN: STANDING ON THE PROMISES

5. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.  
    **[Refrain]** Standing, standing,  
    Standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
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## **2<sup>ND</sup> HYMN: BE STILL, MY SOUL**

1. Be still, my soul, The Lord is on thy side  
Bear patiently, the cross of grief or pain  
Leave to thy God, to order and provide  
In every change, He faithful will remain  
Be still, my soul, thy best thy heavenly friend  
Through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end
2. Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as He has the past  
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last  
Be still, my soul, the waves and wind still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below
3. Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord  
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored  
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past  
All safe and blessed, we shall meet at last

## **CLOSING HYMN: TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, THE SAVIOR SAID**

- 1 "Take up your cross," the Savior said,  
"if you would my disciple be;  
take up your cross with willing heart,  
and humbly follow after me."
- 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight  
fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up  
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
- 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame,  
and let your foolish heart be still;  
the Lord for you accepted death  
upon a cross, on Calv'ry's hill.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> HYMN: BE STILL, MY SOUL**

4. Be still, my soul, The Lord is on thy side  
Bear patiently, the cross of grief or pain  
Leave to thy God, to order and provide  
In every change, He faithful will remain  
Be still, my soul, thy best thy heavenly friend  
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4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,  
and calmly ev'ry danger brave:  
it guides you to abundant life  
and leads to vict'ry o'er the grave.

*Take up your*  
**Cross**   
*and follow me ...*



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