

Go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words. (Jeremiah 18:2)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

February 25, 2024



C.J. Briggs, Music Director Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary John Bair, Liturgist Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

Blessed are you, friend, sitting among the shards of what could have been. It is broken now, that dream you loved, and it has spilled out all over the ground. ...Blessed are you when mourning is the holy work of the moment.

~ Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

~ GATHERING ~

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Jeremiah 18:2)

Come down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.

*GATHERING

CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

GTG #695

by Eddie Espinosa

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 51, from PSALMS OF WONDER by Carey Wallace)

Have mercy on me, Lord, because your love never fails.

Wash away my crimes and wipe away my mistakes.

You always want truth even when it's hidden.

Give me your wisdom. Create a pure heart in me.

Make my spirit strong and true. Don't throw me away.

Give me joy! Come to my rescue!

Then I will teach your ways to others, and when they hear, they will come back to God.

Open up my lips and I will give you praise.

You don't want the sacrifices we bring to your table.

But if our hearts are broken, and our spirits too, you will not look down on us.

We can always bring them to you.

Have mercy on us, Lord, because your love never fails.

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, THE SAVIOR SAID

GTG #718

by Charles William Everest

BOURBON

CHILDREN OF GOD

JEREMIAH THE BOY PROPHET

from THE CHILDREN OF GOD STORYBOOK BIBLE

THE BAPTISMAL FONT (Jeremiah 19:1, 10)

All: May God be with you there. Kids: May God be with you here.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Psalm 51, from TOGETHER WE PRAY)

Have mercy, O God, have mercy upon us today. Without you our hearts are empty and our bones ache. Without your presence we fall apart. Rebuild us, Holy God, rebuild all the broken places in this world, in our homes, in our hearts. May your steadfast love wash over the earth. May your Holy Spirit refresh every broken spirit. May your wisdom teach us the power of joy. Rebuild us with mercy, we pray. Amen. [Silent Confession]

*RESPONSE

LAMB OF GOD

GTG #603

Trad. liturgical text

AGNUS DEI (Vasile)

*Assurance of Pardon (Jeremiah 18:6)

Thus, says the Lord: Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so you are in my hand. In the potter's hands we are reformed. Thanks be to God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

MINUTE FOR SOWING

NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH

~ LISTENING TO THE WORD ~

SACRED ENCOUNTERS

JOHN BAIR

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

HEBREW BIBLE

JEREMIAH 19

SELECT VERSES

SPECIAL MUSIC

THOU SHALT BREAK THEM

Handel

from MESSIAH (Psalm 2:9)

GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 8:31-38

NRSV

Come down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.

For faith comes by listening.

SERMON

A Broken Potter's Vessel

~ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ~

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From A 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 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. Amen.

*INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*RESPONSE FOR THE LIFE THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN GTG #717 by Carl P. Daw Jr. PLEADING SAVIOR

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

~ GOING FORTH ~

*HYMN

WHY DO NATIONS RAGE TOGETHER by Michael Morgan

GTG #758 EBENEEZER

*BENEDICTION (Jeremiah 29:11)

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord:

Plans for welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

POSTLUDE

Pieces of today's liturgy are from: Book of Common Worship (PCUSA).