

Sow Good News



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

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

MR. ROGERS SUNDAY

Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ March 17, 2024



C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Secretary

Wendy Lavey, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger

Blessed are you, starting to sense ... God's voice saying: You are not a bad thing. You are not ruined. You are my suffering one, and you are loved, you are loved, you are loved.

~ Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

~ **GATHERING** ~

GATHERING

CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

GTG #695

by Eddie Espinosa

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Jeremiah 18:2*)

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

PRELUDE IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Music and Lyrics by Fred M. Rogers

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*based on Psalm 51, Together We Pray*)

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

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.

Open our lips and free our tongues to praise you.

Come, neighbors, let us worship God.

***HYMN**

WHEN WE MUST BEAR PERSISTENT PAIN

GTG #807

by Ruth Duck

PROSPECT

CHILDREN OF GOD

THE BAPTISMAL FONT (*Jeremiah 19:1, 10*)

One: Let us send our children with God's love.

All: May God be with you there.

Kids: May God be with you here.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(written by Rev. Fred Rogers)*

Sometimes people are good, and they do just what they should.
But the very same people who are good sometimes,
are the very same people who are bad sometimes.
It's funny, but it's true.
It's the same, isn't it for me
and isn't it the same for you? *[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.**

***MINUTE FOR LOVE**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

~ **LISTENING TO THE WORD** ~

SACRED ENCOUNTERS

NANCY BAIR

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

HEBREW BIBLE

JEREMIAH 29, 31

THE PEACE TABLE

Come down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.
For faith comes by listening.

SPECIAL MUSIC **SOMETIMES PEOPLE ARE GOOD**

Music and Lyrics by Fred M. Rogers

GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 12:20-33

CEB

Come down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.
For faith comes by listening.

SERMON

THE VERY SAME PEOPLE WHO ARE BROKEN SOMETIMES...

~ 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 MAY THE GOD OF HOPE GO WITH US GTG #765
by Alvin Schutmaat (ARGENTINA) *(Sing three times)*

*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

IT'S YOU I LIKE

Music and Lyrics by Fred M. Rogers