



# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2015

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Holy God, by the grace of Jesus Christ  
you know the tests and trials we face.  
Walk with us through this wilderness.  
Come to us with ministers of healing  
and visit us with messengers of hope,  
so that we may return to you in faith,  
believing the good news of the gospel;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Prelude on BEACH SPRING*

Charles Callahan

### BRINGING THE LIGHT

### LIGHTING THE FIRST LENTEN CANDLE

Mark 1:9-15

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Page No. 867

\*SONG OF PRAISE

*God of the Sparrow*  
ROEDER

22

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*ADMITTING OUR BROKENNESS

**God our Redeemer, we confess that we are people of ashes and dust.  
You have claimed us in your covenant, yet we forget your steadfast love.  
You seek us out in the wilderness, yet we continue to wander in our sin.  
Forgive us, God of grace. Wash us clean, once again,  
so that we may return to you and follow your holy way;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God.**

\*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

\*SONG OF RESPONSE *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 9:8-17

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Page No. 7

Psalm 25:1-10



Lord, in your mer-cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

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ANTHEM

*Give Me a Vessel*

Pethel & Meyers

MESSAGE

*Wilderness Faith*

Tracy L. Evans

\*SONG OF FAITH

*Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*

490

BEACH SPRING

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Why did Jesus have to suffer as he did?

**Because grace is more abundant—  
and sin more serious—  
than we suppose.**

**However cruelly we may treat one another,  
all sin is primarily against God.**

**God condemns sin,  
yet never judges apart from grace.**

**In giving Jesus Christ to die for us,  
God took the burden of our sin into God's own self  
to remove it once and for all.**

**The cross in all its severity  
reveals an abyss of sin  
swallowed up by the suffering of divine love.**

*Adapted from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Study Catechism,  
Question 45*

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Prelude on STUTTGART*

Paul Bryan

\*DOXOLOGY

*All Praise to the Father*

300, v. 4

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

DEDICATION PRAYER

### **FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*SENDING SONG

*There Is Now a New Creation*  
STUTTGART

774

\*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*God of the Ages*

\*POSTLUDE

*O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* Michael Burkhardt

\*Those who are able may stand.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

**Lectionary Readings** for March 1: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38.

The **Urban Mission** item of the month for February is **crackers**. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

**Hearing-assistance** devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the ushers.

**Ushers** for today's service are Charles and Jan Johnson.

Pastor Tracy will lead a **Lenten Study** at 7:00 P.M. on Sunday nights, beginning February 22.

**Parents Helping Parents** will meet on Thursday, February 26 at 7:00 P.M. at the Education Center at Norman Regional Hospital, 901 North Porter. When a loved one is in crisis and parents need most to take care of themselves, they tend to do the opposite with the resultant stress impacting their own physical and mental health. Guest speaker will be Sara Barry, M.Ed., LBP, who serves as Business and Community Development Liaison with INTEGRIS Mental Health. Ms. Barry will discuss mindfulness and the mind, body, spirit connection towards helping parents maintain their own well-being. Parents Helping Parents is a network of parents and others concerned about alcohol/substance abuse in their (adolescents or adult) children. The group offers hope through shared experience, resources, and education. They promote prevention and intervention, collaborative efforts and increased access to information/services, and support. For more information, call 278-1221 or go to the website: [www.ParentsHelpingParents.info](http://www.ParentsHelpingParents.info)

Everyone is invited to a luncheon for the family and friends of the late **Barbara Robinson** at noon on Friday, February 27, in Fellowship Hall.

On Tuesday, March 3, from 7:00-9:00 P.M., NorthHaven Church will host four local legends in ministry as they discuss **The Changing Landscape of the Church**. Lavonn Brown, Phil Fenn, Hugh Wilson, and Joe Ted Miller will be part of a panel discussion addressing changes in theology, worship, church culture, and cultural pluralism. Refreshments to follow. NorthHaven Church is located at 4600 36th Ave. NW in Norman.

MPC will host one of six **ecumenical Lenten services** at noon on Wednesday, March 4. We will also be serving lunch and will need volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up. Contact Donna Vint for more information or to volunteer. The first service in the series is this Wednesday, February 25, at Alameda Church of Christ.

As part of the **ecumenical prayer cycle**, we ask you to pray for a particular region of the world each week. This week we pray for France and Germany. We give thanks for reconciliation between France and Germany after the end of the Second World War; for the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany and its families; for the witness of such ecumenical centers as the

Taizé community, which has revitalized worship, particularly among young people; for those working for tolerance and support for immigrants and refugees, so that hatred and violence based on ethnicity are eliminated; and for magnificent church art and architecture, which tell the gospel story and praise God. We pray for the struggle to unite east and west in Germany, that the gap between the rich and poor may decrease and that all citizens be treated with justice; for revitalization of the church amid increasing secularism and atheism; for a deepening of inter-religious dialogue; for those who seek to protect the environment and transform the current harmful, energy-intensive lifestyles and economies; for refugees and immigrants who often face discrimination and racism; for the unemployed and those who face economic uncertainty in the midst of globalization.

**SUNDAY**

**February 22**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service
- 5:00 P.M. – M.Y. Group
- 7:00 P.M. – Lenten Study

**WEDNESDAY**

**February 25**

- 12:00 P.M. – Lenten service at Alameda Church of Christ
- 3:15 P.M. – Kids' Club
- 5:00 P.M. – Children's Choir
- 6:30 P.M. – Chancel Choir

**THURSDAY**

**February 26**

- 10:30 A.M. – Bible Study in Library

**FRIDAY**

**February 27**

- 12:00 P.M. – Luncheon in Memory of Barbara Robinson

**SUNDAY**

**March 1**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service with Communion
- 12:00 P.M. – Worship & Music Meeting
- 7:00 P.M. – Lenten Study