



THIRD SUNDAY
In Lent

United Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Second Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Sunday — March 12, 2023

Guest Minister
The Reverend Sarah McKenney

812-332-1850

www.upcbloomington.org

United Presbyterian Church Worship Guide

March 12, 2023 Third Sunday in Lent



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Allen Pease

PRELUDE *Aria* from Op.11 – R. Schumann Benjamin Watkins, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim Haverstock, Liturgist

Liturgist: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving.

People: O come, let us sing, let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

Liturgist: God is a great God who holds the depths of the earth, the heights of the mountains, the sea, and the dry land.

People: O come, let us worship this God, our Creator. We are God's people and God cares for us.

Liturgist: Let us worship this God, Creator and Lover of us all.

*Opening Hymn

God of the Sparrow

#272



PASSING OF THE PEACE (liturgist & congregation)

Liturgist: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Liturgist: Let us share the peace with one another.

MUSIC for MEDITATION

Comfort Ye – G.F. Handel

Conner McWhirter, tenor Benjamin Watkins, piano

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison with Liturgist)

Life-Giving God, you call us to take risks for you. But when life is tough, we grumble like Moses' people grumbled, questioning your summons, even believing you have forgotten us. Forgive us our lack of faith and our frustration in life's continuing struggles. Forgive us our broken promises, our half-hearted response to your claim upon us. Save us from excluding some from our circle of friends while including only those who think like we do. Help us break through barriers of culture and gender, as Jesus did in his ministry. Save us from our feelings of unworthiness before you, loving God. And give us hope and trust in your guidance, in your love and in your mercy we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Liturgist)

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson *Exodus: 17:1-7* (pew Bible p. 55; large print p. 110)

The New Testament Lesson *Romans 5:1-11* (pew Bible p. 860; large print p. 1736)

Liturgist: The word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON

Finding God in the Wilderness

The Reverend Sarah McKenney

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—The Apostle's Creed (traditional) led by Rev. McKenney

I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Gloria Patri*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** – Elder Don Root

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Elder Don Root

**Doxology*

Prayer of Dedication Rev. Sarah McKenney

***Closing Hymn** *In Christ, There Is No East or West* #439**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Reverend Sarah McKenney

POSTLUDE *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Benjamin Watkins, piano

Please stand if you are able*UPC Prayer List** - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Bob Hammel's family as they mourn the loss of Bob's sister Joy Kennedy

Sue Lorimer's family as they mourn the loss sister-in-law Missy Masters

Shea Henry Olivia McKenzie Nora vander Heijden Kathleen Olds

Rev. David Rosen Patricia Spir Anita Steverson Virginia McCartney Berta Wenneker

His Eyes Mission in Honduras Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project in Uganda

St. John United Presbyterian Church, led by Rev. Allen Colwell, is in New Albany. We have a commitment to serve our community. We host free tax preparation services on Thursdays. We support our local faith coalition – called Hope Southern Indiana. St. John's is a founding member of Ecumenical Association of Churches, who emphasizes unity through diversity. Home to the Southern Indiana Great Banquet, we help people experience authentic Christian community while learning to know Jesus and make him known. We're not a large church; we battle to combat church decline like the rest of you; but we have a big heart for Jesus.