

*Open doors, open hearts, a welcome for all just as you are!*

 **Second Sunday in Lent February 25, 2024 11:00**

**PRELUDE**  James O’Dell

**WELCOME** Janet DeWater

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather this day to worship; to discover anew who we are meant to be.

**God calls us to empty ourselves to discover life’s fullness.**

We come, seeking growth and nourishment for our spirits.

 **God is here, and we offer ourselves in praise and prayer.**

**\*GATHERING SONGS**

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**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we confess that we fall short and need your help. We claim to follow Jesus but have not always followed closely in his path. We profess to be disciples, but sometime the cost of discipleship is more than we are willing to bear. Forgive us and free us, we pray, and enable us to be truly faithful followers. For our hearts long for you. *(Please pause for a moment of silent prayer…amen.)*

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

In Christ we are brought from death to new life. We are forgiven through Christ who reconciles us and all things in heaven and on earth.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*SONG OF RESPONSE #**

**TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Children: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** John DeWater

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Romans 4:13-25

 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

**SERMON**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF** **FAITH**  From Iona Abbey Worship

We believe and trust in God who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus – the Word made flesh – to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the power of the Spirit. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect for creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and hope. In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

**\*HYMN #**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**THE OFFERING** *Today we receive the special offering for “Daily Change” for*

 *hunger relief in our Presbytery*

 **Offertory**

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we pray that you receive these offerings and use them for the good in the church and in all of creation. Amen.

**\*HYMN #**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*SENDING SONG #698** *Take, O Take Me as I Am*

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\*Please rise in body or in spirit

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**A warm welcome to all this morning!** If you are visiting a special welcome to you! We hope you find the worship service to be a blessing. We invite you to fill out the visitor card located in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate. We would love to get better acquainted, and we invite your participation in the worship, fellowship and mission of this church. If you wish to connect with the pastor please email Janet at jdewater@fpcmountholly.com

**Children are always welcome in worship, wiggles, giggles and all!** We value their presence with us as we worship God, knowing that this is how they experience the loving community of Christ and how they learn to worship. We have a **“Worship and Play”** room available downstairs for children and their parents where we are streaming the service and toys are available for those who need a more active space during the service.

**The Offering** – The offering to support our ministry and mission is

gratefully received during the offertory, or your contributions can be

made by using the provided QR code or the Paypal option available

on the church website: fpcmountholly.com Thank you.

**Brief Congregational Meeting Today** – please remain at the end of the service for a very brief meeting of the congregation to vote on a minor adjustment to the terms of call for the pastor. The Lenten Lunch will follow.

**Lenten Lunches Begin Today** – Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for lunch and a brief Lenten DVD study entitled “Witness at the Cross” by Amy-Jill Levine.

**VBS June 2, 3 & 4** –Mark your calendars now for our Intergenerational Vacation Bible School: “Wade in the Water!” The gatherings will be held Sunday following worship and inn the evening on Monday and Tuesday, with lunch/dinner provided.

 **CHURCH DIRECTORY**

 Pastor Janet DeWater

 Administrative Assistant Sarah Oedy

 Director of Music James O’Dell

 Music Worship Leader Jonathan Brackett

 Treasurer Stefanie Faith

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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