



## Rock Lake Presbyterian Church

*Second Sunday of Lent  
February 28, 2021*

A meditation while you wait for  
the service to begin.

### TRUTH THAT RICOCHETS

I went to a lecture once—  
An interfaith conversation with interfaith  
leaders.

Whispers bounced off the church's tile  
floors

As people shuffled into place,  
Carrying hope alongside assumptions—  
Mixed into pockets like loose change.

About halfway through the evening,  
A young woman in a blue hijab began  
speaking.

She was the youngest person on the  
panel,  
Seated far to the left. you might almost  
miss her

If you weren't paying attention;  
But not here, not when she spoke.

In quiet determination she told us of fear  
and persecution.

She told us of hatred and racial slurs,  
Thrown at her people from car windows  
like bombs.

It was a truth I did not know,  
And the truth ricocheted like sunlight  
through the cathedral windows,  
Touching almost everyone that day.

Then a man in the back, who could have  
been me—

*Who had been me—*

Approached the microphone and said  
"Your people are persecuted. You live in  
fear. You are battered by hate.

Why is your story not on the news?

Why have you not spoken up about it?"

And the air was still, partly because we  
held our breath in anticipation,  
And partly because the Spirit slows her  
dance when we stand at the edge of  
truth.

The woman in the blue hijab leaned into  
the microphone  
And whispered with a quiet strength that  
can only come from years of practice:  
"We are screaming."

If there is one truth in my life  
That unfolds again and again,  
It is the need to listen.

For again and again, I will try,  
With good intentions,  
To act and walk with love.  
But again and again, I will make mistakes.  
Again and again, I will say the wrong thing.  
Again and again, they will call me Peter,  
And again and again, they will be right.

So again and again,  
I will pray for a truth that ricochets,  
For ears that will listen,  
And for space to hold truth.

If people are screaming,  
And to be clear—people *are* screaming—  
I do not want to miss it.

~~~*The Rev Sarah Are*

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

**February 28, 2021**

**Gathering**

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"As the Deer"

Arr. Douglas Wagner

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THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us listen, let us pray:

Family of faith, I invite you to close your eyes.

Rest your feet on the floor beneath you.

Release any tension you are holding —

In your jaw,

your neck,

your shoulders,

your hands,

your legs,

your feet.

Take a deep breath in and slowly let it out.

The Hebrew word for breath (ruach) is the same word for Spirit.

So, as you breathe, imagine that it is God who is filling up your lungs with energy and love.

Trust that God is as close as your very breath.

Now I invite you to still your mind. Imagine your mind as a river.

Thoughts will drift into view; they always do.

However, instead of holding onto those thoughts, allow yourself to let them float by.

And listen.

Listen deep.

Listen far.

Listen wide.

Listen.

The sound of your breath is the sound of the Divine.

This is a holy space.

Let us worship God.

\*OPENING HYMN

God Is Calling through the Whisper"

Tune: W ZLOBIE LEZY

**God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,  
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.  
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:  
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?**

**God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,  
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.  
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:  
God is calling – and we hear! God is calling – and we hear!**

Mary Louise Bringle, 2003. © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

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\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Pause for silent confession.*

Listening God,

**Take what is closed in us and open it. Take what is distracted in us and settle it. Take what is hurting in us and hold it. Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you. For we are like Peter,**

**O God. We argue what we don't know. We fear what we cannot see. And we almost always speak sooner than we listen. So open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us. We long to hear you more clearly. We long to know you more fully. With hope we pray, And with gratitude we confess. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers in Christ, We confess with gratitude because we know that God already has heard and forgiven us. No matter what we have done or left undone, we are held in God's hand. So, rest in this good news:

**God invites us in.**

**God meets us where we are.**

**God hears our prayers.**

**God forgives us.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

## ***Listening to the Word***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 4:13-25

CEB

The promise to Abraham and to his descendants, that he would inherit the world, didn't come through the Law but through the righteousness that comes from faith. <sup>14</sup> If they inherit because of the Law, then faith has no effect and the promise has been canceled. <sup>15</sup> The Law brings about wrath. But when there isn't any law, there isn't any violation of the law. <sup>16</sup> That's why the inheritance comes through faith, so that it will be on the basis of God's grace. In that way, the promise is secure for all of Abraham's descendants, not just for those who are related by Law but also for those who are related by the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all of us. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: I have appointed you to be the father of many nations. So Abraham is our father in the eyes of God in whom he had faith, the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that don't exist into existence. <sup>18</sup> When it was beyond hope, he had faith in the hope that he would become the father of many nations, in keeping with the promise God spoke to him: That's how many descendants you will have. <sup>19</sup> Without losing faith, Abraham, who was nearly 100 years old, took into account his own body, which was as good as dead, and Sarah's womb, which was dead. <sup>20</sup> He didn't hesitate with a lack of faith in God's promise, but he grew strong in faith and gave glory to God. <sup>21</sup> He was fully convinced that God was able to do what he promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore, it was credited to him as righteousness. <sup>23</sup> But the scripture that says it was credited to him wasn't written only for Abraham's sake. <sup>24</sup> It was written also for our sake, because it is going to be credited to us too. It will be credited to those of us who have faith in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was handed over because of our mistakes, and he was raised to meet the requirements of righteousness for us.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

Tune: AZMON

**We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: “My peace be with you here.”**

**We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;  
but in your promise we rejoice and cry, “My Lord and God!”**

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound  
to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found.**

Henry Alford, 1844. Public Domain

GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

CEB

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead.” <sup>32</sup> He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. <sup>33</sup> Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: “Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

<sup>34</sup> After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. <sup>35</sup> All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. <sup>36</sup> Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? <sup>37</sup> What will people give in exchange for their lives? <sup>38</sup> Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“What’s your ancestry?”

Jim Musgrave

## ***Responding to God***

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here, Bigger than the sky and in the smallest details, All at once and in every moment. We believe that God meets us where we are — In heartbreak and high hopes, Around crowded tables and in quiet homes, In joy and in suffering, In loneliness and in connection, In sanctuaries and in living rooms, In marches and in waiting rooms. We believe that nothing we do or leave undone Can distance us from God’s love.**

**God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in. Again and again, God meets us where we are And invites us into wholeness.**

**Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen**

\*HYMN

“Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

Tune: CANONBURY

**Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;  
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.**

**Take up your cross, then, in Christ’s strength, and calmly every danger brave:  
it guides you to abundant life and leads to victory o’er the grave.**

Charles William Everest, 1833. Public Domain

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD’S PRAYER

# Going Forth to Serve

\*HYMN

"Lift High the Cross"

Tune: CRUCIFER

*Refrain:* **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod, the Lamb victorious, Christ,  
the Son of God.** *Refrain*

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, your death has brought us life eternally.** *Refrain*

**So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory.** *Refrain.*

George William Kitchin, 1887; rev. Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co.  
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\*WORDS OF DISMISSAL

As you leave this time, May your mouth speak of God's goodness.  
May your arms hold those in need. May your feet walk toward justice.  
May your heart trust its worth. May your soul dance in God's grace.  
And may this be your rhythm — Again and again and again,  
Until God's promised day.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,  
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE

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## Church Notes

**HOLY COMMUNION** will be celebrated next Sunday, March 7. Please take time to prepare for the Sacrament. Because of the pandemic, please prepare at home the elements you will use to celebrate the Sacrament.

*"Worshippers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord's Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ." From the Book of Order W-3.0409.*

### **LENTEN SCHEDULE**

Lent is here and the Worship Committee has been busy planning worship for this special season. Here are some dates to remember and put on your calendar:

|          |                                                                         |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 28 | Palm Sunday – 11:00 am virtual service                                  |
| April 1  | Maundy Thursday – 7:00 pm virtual communion service                     |
| April 2  | Good Friday – 3:00-7:00 pm Stations of the Cross in the church building |
| April 4  | Easter – 11:00 virtual service                                          |

**Throughout the season of Lent there is a prayer wall in the courtyard of the church located next to the choir room. Members and community members will be able to meditate and offer prayers.**

## **RESPONSIVE READER**

This week we would like to thank Sandy McNeely for her participation as the Responsive Reader. Would you like to be a responsive reader during a recorded worship service? We can use one or two people from the same household. Only your voice is recorded and singing is optional. Please call (304 768-4141) or email the church office ([rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com)) if you are interested.

## ***Prayer List***

*To add/remove/correct names on the prayer list,  
please call the church office (768-4141) or email [rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com)*

We send prayers to President Biden and his new administration during their first one hundred days in office.

### **Prayers of Joy**

Our prayers and thoughts to the workers who have and are restoring our region after the massive ice and snow problems.

### **Prayers for Concerns – Our friends and neighbors and their families**

|                         |                  |                                                               |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Merrily Bailey          | Brad Harkins     | Garin Stanford*                                               |
| Day and Gene Bishop     | Juanita Hefner   | Grace Stanford*                                               |
| Karen Cash              | Carol Hill       | Gunnar Stanford*                                              |
| Larry Chapman           | Kay Michney      | Todd Stanford II*                                             |
| Tory Fenniger           | Cheryl Morgan    | Ellie Grace Washington                                        |
| Bogan "Danny" Gumowski  | Marcia Obukowicz |                                                               |
| Margie Gumowski         | Jackie Pauley    | Family of George "GW" Reeves<br>on the occasion of his death* |
| Wendi Stanford Hamelin* | Joy Ratcliff     | Family of Todd Stanford on<br>the occasion of his death*      |
| Addilyn Hardin          | Donna Reeves*    |                                                               |
| Tre' Hardin             | Michelle Smith   |                                                               |

### **Prayers for our Military**

|             |              |             |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Brett Baker | Brent Bishop | Evan Chaney |
| Jeff Barker | Steve Cash   |             |

All who are serving, who have been injured and the families who have lost someone in combat; those who live and serve on the Korean Peninsula and other nations in that region of the world; our troops facing terrorist attacks.

**Prayers for those in Senior Residential Centers** - Cliff Asbury, Kanawha Place; Betty Berry, Edgewood Summit

**Prayers for those at home** - Reva Asbury, Jeanette Bates, Bonnie Cheely, Anita McCormick, Anita Wehrmann

**Prayers for Pollen8** in their ministry for drug addiction.

**Prayer List for Churches:** Teays Valley Presbyterian Church, Scott Depot; First Presbyterian Church, Welch; Githunguri New Church Development (Gay-thoh-GOH'REE); Giakanja Parish (Gie-uh-KAH'juh)

\*Added to Prayer List this week