

**LENTEN SERIES**

*The Things We Leave Behind*

**TODAY'S FOCUS:** *judgement*

First Presbyterian Church 1573 N. Highland Avenue Jackson, TN 38301 731-422-1591 [fpcjacksontn.org](http://fpcjacksontn.org)

**The First Sunday of Lent**  
February 21, 2021

**GATHERING**

**RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

*Chaconne in Ancient Style*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Powell

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Rev. John White*

Leader: Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent

**PEOPLE:** *towards the One who calls us each by a new name.*

Leader: Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,

**PEOPLE:** *putting our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.*

Leader: Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,

**PEOPLE:** *whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.*

**HYMN 418** *Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling*

**SOFTLY AND TENDERLY**

**TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

While we may yearn to be like Jesus, we know that in our self-centered choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous words, we frequently fail. And yet, we can confess our sins, and we can confess Christ as our Lord. Let us confess our sins and repent, seeking new life in Christ.

**UNISON CONFESSION**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

**ALL:** **Gracious Redeemer,**

**You call us to be your voices in this world, yet too often, we stay silent. You call us to be your hands in this world, yet too often we do little. You call us to be your feet in this world, yet too often, we go our own way. When we meet those who are doubting and say nothing, forgive us.**

**When we are called to take up your cross but carry nothing, forgive us.**

**Breathe life into these bones and bring freedom to these lives that we might declare with heart and soul and voice that you are our Lord and our God.**

**Amen**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

Leader: On mountain tops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves.

**ALL:** *By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. Thanks be to God. Amen*

**THE WORD**

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Rev. John White*

**HYMN 423** *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

SARADAY

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*1 Samuel 16:6-13  
(Page 260)*

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Matthew 7:1-5  
(Page 6-7)*

*Rev. John White*

**SERMON**

*"The Things We Leave Behind: Judgement"*

*Rev. John White*

**RESPONSE**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(From the Book of Confessions, 9.13, "The Confession of 1967")*

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

*Wise and virtuous people through the ages have sought the highest good in devotion to freedom, justice, peace, truth, and beauty. Yet all human virtue, when seen in the light of God's love in Jesus Christ, is found to be infected by self-interest and hostility. All people, good and bad alike, are in the wrong before God and helpless without God's forgiveness. Thus all people fall under God's judgement. No one is more subject to that judgement than the person who assumes that he is guiltless before God or morally superior to others.*

*God's love never changes. Against all who oppose him, God expresses his love in wrath. In the same love, God took on himself judgement and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring people to repentance and new life.*

*\*Congregation standing, if able*

**MUSIC**

*Chorale Prelude on WENN WIR IN HOCHSTEN NOTHEN SEIN*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Bach

**OFFERING**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

\*Doxology (Tune: 591)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Dedicatory Prayer

*Rev. John White*

**SENDING**

\*CHARGE

*Rev. John White*

\*BENEDICTION

*Rev. John White*

\*POSTLUDE

*Postlude on LAND OF REST*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

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