

CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER — This Sunday is the first in the season of Lent. Lent is a 40-day season when, as Christ's disciples, we journey with Jesus toward the cross. Along the way we are invited to moments of reflection, penitence, renewed devotion and commitment.

This year has been full of turmoil and change for many of us – of death and loss even. And Lent is a season of ashes, mortality, and loss, in fact they are central to it! You might well ask, - why, in a time of so much pain and turmoil and death would we take on more if it with a season of Lent?

Lent is a Latin word that means "Spring". And it is a time when Christians reflect on their death and mortality. If those two things seem an odd pairing, that's because they speak to the strange paradox of Christian faith. Imbedded in the heart of Lent is the astonishing claim that in God's hands suffering can be how we grow; and death becomes the gateway to a New Kind of Life.

Christians observe Lent in many ways. Some give up food items as a tangible way to deny pleasures in the hopes of finding greater pleasure in God. Some give up habits or actions in the hopes of putting on new Spiritual disciplines. Others take regular times for self-examination and prayer. However we keep Lent this year, the prophet Joel reminds us that the goal of our Lenten practice is that we rend our hearts.

However you keep it this year here is a prayer we offer to you as a prompt for your own—**Lord Jesus, as you journey to the Cross for me this season give me courage to follow you there. Along the way please show me how I have turned astray so that I might delight in your straight path toward Jerusalem – create in me a longing for eternal life. Mark me with a deeper repentance, not the outward sign of apology, but repentance of heart. In the hope of new life and the strength of your devotion to me I pray, AMEN.**

LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

- M 6:30p Celebrate Recovery: Fellowship Hall
T 9:30a Coffee Break: Via Zoom
6:30p Divorce Care: Howard's Office
6:30p GriefShare: Fellowship Hall & Online
W 12:30p Open Door Remote Learning Tutoring: Foundation
5:00p Celebrate Recovery Women's Step Study: Offices
6:15p Mid-Week @ PS
Th 7:15a Open Door Remote Learning: Foundation
7:00p Celebrate Recovery Men's Step Study: Offices

MINISTRY STAFF — HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

Sr. Pastor: Rev. Matthew Burns / Care Ministries: Rev. Howard DeVries; Youth: Pastor Annika Bangma / Children: Kate Martinka; Worship: Becky VandenAkker; firstname@pscrc.org; Office/ Finance: Sadie Perkins; churchoffice@pscrc.org; or finance@pscrc.org; Elders; elders@pscrc.org; Deacons; deacons@pscrc.org.

SHEPHERDING PASTORATES — Alphabetical by last name:

- A-Bt** — Elder Jack Crawford & Deacon Ruth Bandstra
Bu-E — Elder Thalia Towle & Deacon Kate Mogan
F-I — Elder Dawn Lefrancois & Deacon Lauren McGrath
J-Mh — Elder John Vriesema & Deacon Beth Bol
Mi-Sv — Elder Mike Anema & Deacon Dexter Greene
Sw-Z — Elder Tony Brookhouse & Deacon Connor Kuik

The candle on the table is lit as a reminder that Jesus Christ is present in our worship this morning.

SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

HAPPY 125th ANNIVERSARY — We are looking for a few gifted members that would like to promote an anniversary booklet to commemorate our 125 years in Whitinsville. If your gifts are in history, photography, interviews, writing, organizing, editing, interviewing arranging, or just plain story telling, you can be part of our history. Contact Elder Jack Crawford at 508.450.7203.

NAC FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS — May be placed in the baskets available at the main and back entrances. Thanks for your sharing your gifts with those who are in need.

Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church

508.234.5268 + Office: 8a–3p Mon-Fri
February 21, 2021 + 9:30 am

Welcome! We are so glad that you are here!



PLEASANT STREET
CHRISTIAN REFORMED
CHURCH

If you have been worshipping with us for a long time or you are entering the doors of a church for the first time, it is our hope that you will experience a kind welcome, a sense of genuine community, and the grace and truth of Jesus Christ that the Christian Church has celebrated for centuries. If you're asking questions about faith and spirituality, join us in our formation opportunities and ministry events to learn more and meet others. Help us get to know you or let us know how we can pray for you by filling in the Communication Card in the pew and putting it in the offering basket—we'll be in touch.

The Lord be with you!

Prayer of Preparation

Journey with us, O holy God, as we begin our way to the cross. Sharpen our focus, that our attention may center more on you than ourselves. Lead us through the shadows of darkness and prepare our hearts, that we might be a people of prayer, ready to perceive and respond to your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. In his name we pray. Amen.

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Let us contemplate Jesus the Lord: Instead of the joy meant for him,
he endured the cross, disregarding its disgrace.
We worship you, Lord.

O Jesus Christ, born in humility to confound the proud and to raise the humble:

We worship you, Lord.

You lived among us, healing the sick, proclaiming good news to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

We worship you, Lord.

You came to unbind the chains of every slavery,
O friend of the humble, bread of hungry hearts.

We worship you, Lord.

Jesus, full of patience and goodness, you showed forgiveness and kindness to the very end.

We worship you, Lord.

Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, you call to yourself all who are weary and burdened.

We worship you, Lord.

Jesus, you came into the world to serve and to give your life; you were betrayed for money, dragged before judges, and nailed to a cross.

We worship you, Lord.

Jesus, Lord of the universe, by your resurrection from the dead you are alive at the Father's side, and there you prepare a place for us.

We worship you, Lord.

SONGS: *We Fall Down*, *All in All*, *Here I Am to Worship*

Renewal

Call to Confession—Psalm 15

SONG: *Kyrie Eleison*

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

we confess to you, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

we confess to you, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

we confess to you, O God.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

we confess to you, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

we confess to you, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done.

For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

accept our repentance, O God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

accept our repentance, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Amen.

Silent confession

Words of Assurance (Ps. 40:1-3; Eph. 2:4-5)

I waited patiently for the Lord; and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit; and he set my feet on a rock. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

Because of his great love for us, even when we were dead in our sins, God made us alive together with Christ. By grace, we have been saved. Thanks be to God!

SONG: *I Will Sing of My Redeemer*

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

WORD

Morning Prayers

Luke 10:25-37 (p 843)

“Lent in Mirrors: The Good Samaritan”

TABLE

Invitation to the Table, Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, Tasting Grace

SEND

SONG: *We Labor Unto Glory*

Benediction

Sisters and brothers, let us claim the freedom Christ gives us by his self-giving on the cross.

May he enable us to serve together in faith, hope, and love. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the God of love, who shared his love, strengthen us in our love for others. May the Son who shared his life grant us grace, that we might share our life. And may the Holy Spirit dwelling in us empower us to be only and always for others.

Amen.