

**Erwin Presbyterian Church**

First Sunday of Lent \* February 18, 2024 \* 11:00 a.m.

105 N. Elm Ave., Erwin, TN 37650 \*423-743-3431\*

erwinpresbyterianchurch.com

**Prelude**  *Soliloquy* arr. Hugh S. Livingston Jr.

Ethan Thomas, organist

**Welcome and Announcements** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Introit** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Green Hymnbook #139

**\* Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 25)**  Mike Reese

Leader: O God, in you we trust.

**All: Lead us in your truth and teach us,**

Leader: for you are the God of our salvation;

**All: for you we wait, for you we worship.**

**\*Hymn**  *Come, Thou Almighty King* Red Hymnbook, #244

**Call to Confession** Mike Reese

Leader: We pause here to examine our lives, our temptations, and the ways we have fallen short before our God. Let us confess our sins together.

**Prayer of Confession** Mike Reese

**All: Gracious God, as we begin this Lenten wilderness journey with Jesus, we confess our neglect of you and our faith. We make idols of nation, money and power. We build walls instead of better relationships. We fail to follow Jesus to the poor, the destitute, the stranger. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our faith so we can leave this wilderness season in right relationship with you.**

(*Please take a moment of silent confession)*

**Assurance of Pardon** Mike Reese

Leader: Remember and receive these hopeful words from John 8:31-32, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” Receive God’s truth. Receive God’s grace. Accept the freedom God provides. Amen.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gloria Patri**  Red Hymnbook, #546

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the**

**Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and**

**ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen**.

**\*The Peace** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

Pastor: Jesus said, “My peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.” May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Please take a moment to greet one another and share the peace of Christ.

**First Scripture Reading-** Genesis 9:8-16 Mike Reese

**8**Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: **9**“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you **10**and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. **11**I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

**12**And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: **13**I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. **14**Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, **15**I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. **16**Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** *Rejoice*

**Prayer for Illumination** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Second Scripture Reading- Mark 1:9-15** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**9**At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10**Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **11**And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

**12**At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, **13**and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** *The Beloved in the Wilderness*  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Introduction**

**First, Receive the Love of God**

**Second, A Walk in the Wilderness**

**Conclusion**

**\*Declaration of Faith**

**(The NiceneCreed)** Mike Reese

Leader: Let’s declare our faith.

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Offering**

***Invitation to the Offering*** Mike Reese

Leader: God calls us to lives of grateful generosity. Let us praise the Giver of all good gifts through our offering today.

(*may the ushers move forward and collect the offering*)

***Offertory Music*** *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

***\*Doxology*** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Red Hymnbook, #544

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**\**Prayer of Dedication*** Mike Reese

Leader: God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ’s ministry and mission among the poor, the suffering and the destitute.

**All: Amen.**

**Installation of 2026 Officers**

**The Statement of Purpose** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served. God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God’s purpose that is accomplish. To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good. Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

We are called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism, and marked as Christ’s own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disciples of Jesus Christ and servants of our servant Lord. Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as deacons, as ruling elders, and as ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Ordination is Christ’s gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us. Through ordination, God provides for acts of care and compassion in the world, for the ordering and governance of the church, and for the preaching of the word and celebrating of the sacraments.

**Presentation of the Candidate** Hitomi Lewis

Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic church, the session of Erwin Presbyterian Church installs to active service those who have been previously ordained: ruling elders Susan Chaffin, Green Faircloth, and David Shults.

**The Constitutional Questions to the Minister** Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of

the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

**I do**

b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy

Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and

God’s Word to you?

**I do**

c. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as

expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what

Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those

confessions as you lead the people of God?

**I do and I will**

d. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of

Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

**I will**

e. Will you be governed by our church’s polity, and will you abide by its discipline?

Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to

the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit?

**I will**

f. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors,

and work for the reconciliation of the world?

**I will**

g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

**I do**

h. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination,

and love?

**I will**

i. Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

**I will**

**The Constitutional Questions to the Congregation** Hitomi Lewis

a. Do we, the members of the church, accept Susan Chaffin, Green Faircloth, and David Shults as ruling elders chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

b. Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the church? **We do.**

**Prayer of Installation** Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

Gracious and Eternal God, with joy we give you thanks and praise. Throughout the ages and in every place you have chosen servants from among your people to point the way to salvation by your grace. We are grateful for ancestors in the faith who followed without fear, placing their trust in you alone.

Above all, we praise you for Jesus Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to set others free. Anointed by your Holy Spirit, he proclaimed your reign on earth, revealing your saving love in all he said and did.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for your servants Susan Chaffin, Green Faircloth, and David Shults as they continue in the ministry to which you have called them. Help them to rely on the gifts of your Spirit and to follow Christ faithfully in this calling.

Gracious God, pour our your Spirit of power and truth upon the whole church, that we may be for you a holy people, baptized to served you in the World. Sustain your church in ministry. Ground us in the gospel, secure our hope in Christ. Strengthen our service to the outcast, and increase our love for one another. Amen .

**Declaration of Installation**

**& Welcome by Commission**

Susan Chaffin, Green Faircloth, and David Shults are ruling elders, ordained to ministries of service and governance in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ. Amen.

**Hymn** *Here I am Lord, Lord* Green Hymnal #589 v.1, 2

**\*Benediction** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**\*Benediction Response** *Take My Life and Let It Be*

**Take my life and let it be**

**Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.**

**Take my moments and my days.**

**Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Postlude** *Solemn March* by W.A. Mozart

Ethan Thomas, organist

**Notes:**

***\*****Responses with an asterisk indicate standing. Please stand as you are able.*

**Sources for Worship Liturgy:** The liturgy is based on *The Presbyterian Outlook*.

**Welcome Visitors**: Welcome! If you are visiting please fill out one of the green visitor’s cards from the pew and put it in the offering plate. We are glad you are here! Hope to see you again soon!

**Announcements:**

**New Members’ Class** (February 18) Immediately following service.

**Youth Lenten Study** (Sunday, February 18, 25 at 10 a.m.) Sunday school in the Scout Hall beginning February 18 until Easter Sunday.

**Women’s Study Gathering** (Thursday, February 22, 29 at 7-8p.m.) Continuation of the study of the C.S. Lewis’ *Screwtape Letters*.

**Celebration of Life for Elmer Bain** (Saturday, February 24) Visitation 12-2 p.m. and the funeral will begin at 2 p.m. There will be a reception following in the fellowship hall. If you would like to bring a dish to share, please contact Ellen Sewell at 423-220-9169.

**Food Collection** – The food item for February is canned soup.

**Elder of the Month** – Ellen Sewell

**Contact Information**

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