

**Erwin Presbyterian Church**

Second Sunday of Lent \* February 25, 2024 \* 11:00 a.m.

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

erwinpresbyterianchurch.com

**Prelude**  *Meditation on “Wondrous Love”* arr. David Paxton

Ethan Thomas, organist

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

**Introit** *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* Green Hymnbook #391

**\* Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 22:23-31)**  Larry Rose

Leader: You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
**All: God shows loving compassion and care to all who are suffering.**

Leader: Let all the people give thanks to God in his great assembly!

**All: All nations will remember and return,**

**they will bow down and praise the Lord.**

**\*Hymn**  *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* Red Hymnbook, #15

**Call to Confession** Larry Rose

Leader: When we cry to God in prayer and confession, God hears. Let us approach God’s throne of grace with confidence and faith.

**Prayer of Confession** Larry Rose

**All: Savior God, the public display of the cross calls us to account. We hesitate and hedge when opportunities arise to speak of you. We are shy in faith and not bold to proclaim. Your story saves, yet we keep it to ourselves. Forgive our silent faith. Forgive the ways we fail to serve as public witnesses. Help us be your candlelight, held high to set the world aglow.**

(*Please take a moment of silent confession)*

**Assurance of Pardon** Larry Rose

Leader: God does not forsake us. Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love. Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace. 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 17:1-7** Larry Rose

**1**When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. **2**Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

**3**Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, **4**“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **5**No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. **6**I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. **7**I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. **8**The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** *God So Loved the World* Green Hymnbook, #350

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

**Second Scripture Reading- Mark 8:31-38** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**31**He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. **32**He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

**33**But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

**34**Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **35**For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. **36**What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? **37**Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? **38**If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** *The Way of the Cross* The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Introduction**

**First, Jesus’s Announcement**

**Second, Right Thinking**

**Third, The Road to Descipleship**

**Conclusion**

**\*Declaration of Faith (The Nicene Creed)** Larry Rose

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.**

**Prayer of the People**  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

***Ends with The Lord’s Prayer***

**All: 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Offering**

***Invitation to the Offering*** Larry Rose

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*** *Where He Leads Me*

***\*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*** Larry Rose

Leader: God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. May our offerings provide for others and be used to further Christ’s ministry and mission.

**All: Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *Living for Jesus* Green Hymnal #605

**\*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** *At the Cross arr. Gregg Sewell*

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:**

**Reception of New Members** (March 3): The new members will meet with the session of EP Church at 10:30, and then during the worship they will be received into the membership!

**Unicoi County Ministerial Association (UCMA)** (February 26 at 8:30): EP Church will host the UCMA meeting for this month.

**Youth Lenten Study** (Sundays at 10 a.m., February 25 – March 31) In the Scout Hall.

**Women’s Study Gathering** (Thursdays at 7-8 p.m., February 29, March 7 and 14) Continuation of the study of the C.S. Lewis’ *Screwtape Letters*. Chapters covered will be: February 29 - chapters 21-23, March 7 - chapters 24-26, and March 14 - chapters 27-31.

**Session Meeting** (Tuesday, March 5 at 6 p.m.)

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

**Elder of the Month** – Ellen Sewell

**Contact Information**

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