

**Erwin Presbyterian Church**

Third Sunday of Lent \* March 3, 2024 \* 11:00 a.m.

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

erwinpresbyterianchurch.com

**Prelude**  *The Inward Heart* arr. Gilbert M. Martin

Ethan Thomas, organist

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

**Introit** *Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome* Green Hymnbook #387

**\* Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 19)**  Tony Wieder

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

**All: The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.**

Leader: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

**All: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.**

Leader: The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**All: They are more desirable than gold and sweeter than honey.**

 **Let us worship God!**

**\*Hymn**

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* Red Hymnbook, #31 v.1, 2, 4

**Call to Confession** Tony Wieder

Leader: Christ calls us to live lives in harmony with our God and our neighbors. Even our best efforts fall short. Yet our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Trusting that abundant mercy, let us confess our sin together.

**Prayer of Confession** Tony Wieder

**All: God of righteousness, we confess that have not kept your commandments. We bow down before idols, declaring our allegiance to other powers and principalities. We take your name in vain, using it to justify our own prejudices and opinions. We do not make adequate time to rest and remember your goodness, nor to revel in the delight of family and friends. Yet you gave us commandments not for condemnation, but so that we might live in justice and joy. Purify us by your righteousness and enfold us in your grace. Sanctify our intentions and actions, that our lives may begin to reflect your Beloved Community.**

*Please take a moment of silent confession)*

**Assurance of Pardon** Tony Wieder

Leader: Hear these words from the Apostle Paul, “God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.” The grace of Christ is sufficient for us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**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-Exodus 20:1-17** Tony Wieder

**1** And God spoke all these words: **2**“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. **3**“You shall have no other gods beforeme. **4**“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. **5**You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,**6**but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. **7**“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

**8**“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. **9**Six days you shall labor and do all your work, **10**but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. **11**For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. **12**“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. **13**“You shall not murder. **14**“You shall not commit adultery. **15**“You shall not steal. **16**“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. **17**“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** *Come to the Table*

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

**Second Scripture Reading- John 2:13-22**  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**13**When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14**In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. **15**So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. **16**To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” **17**His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

**18**The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

**19**Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

**20**They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” **21**But the temple he had spoken of was his body. **22**After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** *Holy Disruption* The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Introduction**

**First, The Story in Context**

**Second, Teaching Lessons**

**Conclusion**

**Offering**

***Invitation to the Offering*** Tony Wieder

Leader: God’s house does not operate according to the logic of the market, but according to the abundance of God’s grace. Let us each give what we have, trusting that by God’s generosity, it will be enough.

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

***Offertory Music*** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

***\*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*** Tony Wieder

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.**

**Reception of New Members**

***Presentation of the Candidate*** Hitomi Lewis

On behalf of the session, I present Donald Hervey Mondor and Patricia Casey Mondor who have been received into the membership of this congregation by transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Spruce Pine congregation.

I also present Cora Young, Laurie Jane Campbell Wieder, Anthony William Wieder, and Carleigh Snyder who have been received into the membership of this congregation by reaffirmation of faith.

Pastor: In baptism you were claimed by God, marked as Christ’s own forever, and joined to his body by the Holy Spirit. You come to us then, not as strangers, but as friends in Christ and members of the household of God. We rejoice that you now desire to join this congregation in the worship and mission of the church.

***\* Profession of Faith*** Caralyn Snyder

Here these words from scripture: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

As members of the body of Christ, let us stand up and reaffirm the faith into which we were baptized.

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: Donald Hervey Mondor, Patricia Casey Mondor, Cora Young, Laurie Jane Campbell Wieder, Anthony William Wieder, and Carleigh Snyder, We have professed our faith as one body. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and mission through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

**Candidates: I will, with God’s help.**

(*Please raise your hands as we pray and bless our new members*)

Pastor: Holy God, thank you for calling us to be your people and joining us to Christ’s body, the church. We praise you for leading Donald Hervey Mondor, Patricia Casey Mondor, Cora Young, Laurie Jane Campbell Wieder, Anthony William Wieder, and Carleigh Snyder to this congregation. Empower us by your Spirit, that we might love one another as Christ loved us, honoring him in all that we say and do, giving our lives in service to others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Donald Hervey Mondor, Patricia Casey Mondor, Cora Young, Laurie Jane Campbell Wieder, Anthony William Wieder, and Carleigh Snyder remember your baptism and be thankful, and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you.

**Candidates: Thanks be to God**

***Welcome***

Pastor: Welcome to this ministry that we share in Jesus Christ. The Peace of Christ be with you.

**The New Members: And also be with you.**

**Celebration of the Lord’s Supper** Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

***Invitation to the Lord’s Table***

Pastor: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

***Great Thanksgiving***

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: and also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever. Amen

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

***Words of Institution and Breaking of the Bread***

Pastor: We give thanks that on the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me. Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Pastor: And now with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

**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.**

***Communion***

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you. **All: Amen**

Pastor: The blood of Christ, given for you. **All: Amen**

***Prayer after Communion***

Pastor: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **All: Amen**

**\*Hymn**  *I Surrender All Gr*een Hymnal #596 v.1, 4

**\*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** *O Sacred Head Now Wounded arr. Edward Broughton*

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** (Sunday 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!

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

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

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

**Donations Needed** – (March 7) We are looking for donations for the Easter egg hunt March 24. If you are able to donate plastic eggs and snack-size candy, please bring them to the church by March 7. If you have questions please contact Sarah Shults

**Egg Stuffing** (Sunday, March 10 after service) The youth will meet after service to enjoy lunch and stuff the eggs for the Easter egg hunt March 24.

**Easter Lilies and the Helping Fund** – You may purchase Easter Lilies to be placed in the sanctuary, honoring or memorializing a loved one. The deadline to purchase is March 24. Order forms may be found in the narthex. Pick up of ordered lilies will be March 31.

**Easter Egg Hunt & Congregational Pot Luck** (March 24 at 12:30 p.m.) Please join us and invite your neighbor to this fun event! There will be games, food and fun.

**Food Collection** – The food pantry item for March is canned fruit.

**Elder of the Month** – Betty Stevens

**Contact Information**

**Pastor**: Rev. Dr. Ramy N. Marcos

**Email**: ramynmarcos@gmail.com

**Phone**: 860-322-7683

**Office hours** **Mon-Th, Sun:** 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Administrative Assistant**: Jackie Andrews

**Email**: ErwinPresChurch@gmail.com

**Phone**: 423-743-3431 (office)

**Office hours Mon-Th:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.