

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church

Fort Worth, Texas

Service for The LORD'S Day

1st Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.

Bold text: All | Regular text: Leader | †: *Please stand in body or spirit.*

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE: *Master Tallis's Testament* (1953)

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

PEAL OF THE TOWER BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

God's promise is for all generations.

Genesis 9:12

God's covenant is with every living thing.

†HYMN: *22 God of the Sparrow*

ROEDER

LITANY FOR LENT

For forty days and nights the rain fell, and the waters covered the face of the earth.

Lead us, O LORD, from death to life.

For forty years the people wandered, seeking the land of God's promise.

Lead us, O LORD, from death to life.

Moses spent forty days on the mountain, learning the commandments of God.

Lead us, O LORD, from death to life.

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness to hear the voice of God in the silence.

Lead us, O LORD, from death to life.

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days and was tested by the devil.

Lead us, O LORD, from death to life.

(Prayer continues...)

Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION *(kneeling or bowing down)*

Are you thirsty for grace? Are you hungry for mercy?

Isaiah 55:1

God is calling; come to the waters.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(kneeling or bowing down)*

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

(Moment of silent confession)

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

5
Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's mercy is freely given in the grace of our baptism - safe passage through the sea, justice rolling down like water, deliverance from sin and death forever.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Therefore, let the peace of the LORD Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please stand and greet your neighbors with a sign of Christ's peace.

†GLORIA PATRI 580

SCOTTISH

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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Karla Campbell

LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 9:8-17

All of this is from God, who entrusts us with the message of reconciliation.

Thanks be to God.

Pew Bible OT p. 7
2 Corinthians 5:18-19

PSALM 25:1-10

Setting by John E. Cantrell

LESSON FROM THE EPISTLES: 1 Peter 3:18-22

All of this is from God, who entrusts us with the message of reconciliation.

Thanks be to God.

Pew Bible NT p. 234

All children 5th grade and younger are invited into the center of the sanctuary to surround the Gospeler during the Gospel Processional Hymn. Afterwards, the children will be led out of the sanctuary to the Chapel for Godly Play and return during the hymn that follows the sermon.

†GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 164 *Down Galilee's Slow Roadways*

1-2 | 3

WEST MAIN

†LESSON FROM THE GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Pew Bible NT p. 34

SERMON: "God's Covenantal Sign"

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Callender, *Interim Pastor*

TIME OF REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

†HYMN: 738 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

MARYTON

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our LORD, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into Hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

COMMISSIONING OF TRUSTEE – ADELAIDE LEAVENS

Clerk: *(to congregation)* Do we, the members of St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, agree to pray for this one chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Christ?

All: **We do.**

Clerk: Will we encourage her, respect her decisions, and follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

All: **We will.**

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: *Forty Days and Forty Nights* (2019)

Franklin D. Ashdown (1942–2023)

*Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.
should not we your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?*

*Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint nor fail!*

*So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served you faithfully.*

*Keep, oh, keep us Savior dear, ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.*

†DOXOLOGY 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD *(kneeling or bowing down)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*kneeling or bowing down*)

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.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

†HYMN: 687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ST. ANNE

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

PEAL OF THE TOWER BELLS

POSTLUDE: *Festival Toccata on ST. ANNE* (1998)

Frederick Swann (1931–2022)

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God in honor of Payten's Fultz's 8th birthday
by her grandparents Beth and Robby Fultz.



Think. Serve. Worship. Belong.



SCAN ME

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MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. STEPHEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church celebrates liturgical worship to the glory of God, embraces a progressive theology, engages in mission, serves with compassion, and intentionally includes all with love.