

Covenant Congregational Church

Second Sunday of Lent

Worship Gathering

February 25, 2018

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE	<i>Beneath the Cross of Jesus</i>	arr. Schram
INTROIT	<i>What Wondrous Love</i>	American Hymn
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS		Sue Plante

*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 22:23-31)

Awe-inspiring God, we gather together to praise You
for Your tender compassion and care of needy people.

Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your prayers.

Listening God, we gather to revere and honor
Your supportive concern for people who cry to You for help.

Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your praise.

People of every nation are called to gather together
to worship God, in thankfulness for God's loving mercies.

Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your worship.

*SONG *God Is Here!* Hymn #516

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**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 sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Reading

Mark 8:31-38 (NRSV)

Lita Kuipers
N.T. Page #44

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Response: The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (inspired by Matthew 16:24-26, Mark 8:31-38, Luke 9:23)

We hear the words from Jesus:

"Take up your cross and follow me."

These words scare us.

We know what taking up a cross meant for Him.

We do not feel able to sacrifice our lives.

We are not even ready on most days
to sacrifice our comfort for the sake of the Kingdom.

Today O God we confess our timidity, our weaknesses, our fears, and our hesitations.

As we focus in today—

as we look at the cross in front of us,

as we remember the crosses that marked our foreheads on Ash Wednesday,

as we think of the Cross that Lent calls us to journey towards

may we find strength in new places deep within our souls.

May we find courage, hope, and the peace to really follow Jesus.

May worship today help us to begin the Lenten journey
towards finding our crosses and figuring out how to bear them.

Hear our prayers,

remind us of the grace that covers our sin and offers us the endurance
to the run the race of faith.

Amen and Amen.

SONG *Take the World, but Give Me Jesus* Hymn #348

*(Children between the ages of Kindergarten and 5th Grade
are invited at this time to Children's Church.)*

SERMON *How Many Licks Does It Take to Get to the Center?* Pastor Jason

*RESPONSE SONG *Here I Am to Worship* Insert

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
Choral Offertory *Love Unknown* Drennan
*Doxology 48

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Go Now In Peace* Sleeth

*POSTLUDE *There is a Balm in Gilead* arr. Thygerson

*Please stand in praise to God, if able
CCLI #982653

Thank you for participating in our worship gathering! We are glad that you are here this morning and pray that this might be a meaningful faith-building experience for you and/or your family. To go deeper in relationship with this church family, we invite join in on the fellowship and light refreshments after services today in the Fireside Room.



Welcome to Covenant Congregational Church
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