

Covenant Congregational Church

First Sunday in Lent

Service of Worship March 5, 2017 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *Always Remember* Sewell

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Alynne MacLean

*CALL TO WORSHIP From Psalm 32

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven.

**Happy are those to whom God attributes no wrong,
those in whose heart there is no deceit.**

When we keep silent about our wrongdoings,
our lives disintegrate with worry and guilt;

**when we struggle to hide from God,
the heaviness in our hearts consumes our strength.**

But when we seek your truth, O God,
and acknowledge our sin, we experience your forgiveness.

**Let all people reach out to you in prayer, O God,
and know your protection and strength.**

Surrounded by your grace-filled presence
and filled with your undeserved forgiveness,
we sing your praise; we shout for joy.

**Stubbornness melts away and tempers are controlled
when we listen for God's word and follow God's direction for our lives.**

When we fail to listen and persist in following other than God's way,
our hearts are hardened and our lives tormented.

**But when we put our trust in God,
we are surrounded and filled with God's steadfast love.**

Rejoice and shout for joy all those who are upright in heart.

*HYMN *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* 78

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

**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

Heather Willis

New Testament Reading: John 1:35-51

NIV (New Testament page 92)

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

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

*HYMN *Behold the Lamb of God* 216

(Children K through 3rd grade are dismissed to Junior Church at this time)

