

Covenant Congregational Church

Second Sunday in Lent

Service of Worship March 12, 2017 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* arr. Shackley

WELCOME Sheri Anderson

*CALL TO WORSHIP *adapted from Psalm 121*

I lift up my eyes to the hills—

where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip—

He who watches over you will not slumber;

Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD watches over you—

The LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**The sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will keep you from all harm—

he will watch over your life;

The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

*HYMN *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* 27

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Heavenly Father, we look up to You as we pray today, for You are high and lifted up in reality and in our praise of You. Your word teaches that You made heaven and earth and You made us in Your image, a little lower than Yourself. You know us completely, far better than we know ourselves. You know our needs. You anticipate every problem that will cause us to struggle in the days ahead. You keep Your eyes upon us day and night, ever ready to come to our rescue.

Direct our paths, so we will not stray into evil. Protect us from Your enemies and ours, through Your Son, who taught us to pray, “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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Kayla Rose Dymont

Response: ***The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face to shine upon you
And be gracious, gracious, gracious to you
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
And give you, give you, give you peace (repeat all)***

PILGRIM PINES HIGHLIGHT

*THE WORD OF GOD Janet Linehan

New Testament Reading: John 3:1-21 NIV (New Testament page 93)

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” **3** Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” **4** “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” **5** Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” **9** “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. **10** “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? **11** Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. **12** I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? **13** No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. **14** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **15** that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” **16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. **19** This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **20** Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. **21** But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

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

*HYMN *In Water We Grow* 537

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

SERMON The Holy Quest For Grace: Do You Understand? Pastor Jason O. Mohn

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Choral Anthem *Ave Verum* Mozart 48

*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

*HYMN *To God Be the Glory* 72

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Blessed Assurance* arr. Hayes

*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 more deeply connect with this faith community, we invite you to stay following our worship gathering and enjoy a time of refreshments and fellowship in our Fireside Room and Narthex.

We rejoice with Jon and Erin Dymont, as they bring their daughter, Kayla Rose, to the church for the sacrament of Holy Baptism this morning.



Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

– John 3:3

Welcome to Covenant Congregational Church

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