

Covenant Congregational Church

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Worship Gathering March 11, 2018 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* arr. Wilson

INTROIT *Jesus, Stand Among Us* Filitz

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Mark Ingalls

*OPENING PRAYER (inspired by 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25)

**O God, You are the gathering one
who calls us into community with each other
to love and work, to support and heal.**

**You are the gathering one
who calls us into community with all people;
to bring justice and hope, freedom and truth.**

**You are the gathering one
who calls us into community with the whole creation;
to live in harmony, to cherish and renew.**

**Let us worship the God
who makes us one.**

*SONG *Gather Us In* Hymn #511

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**Choral Offertory *Purify My Heart* Pethel

*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

THE WORD OF GOD Bob Buckley
New Testament Reading *John 2:13-22 (NRSV)* N.T. Page #93

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things

out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

SONG *Your Cause Be Mine* Hymn #611

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

SERMON *For the Love of the Game* Pastor Jason

*RESPONSE SONG *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Insert

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (inspired by John 2:13-22)

Jesus, cleanser of temples and souls, at this mid-point in the Lenten journey, look deep within our hearts and our lives, and clear away all that holds us back. May our minds, spirits and bodies be a Temple that is open to Your presence: and may our words and our actions be transparent to Your love and truth. We pray that this church community, will be purified in its life and mission, so that all that we do in and from here may reveal Your Gospel to others. In a moment of silence we sit before You, and name those things for which we seek Your cleansing and healing, so that we may be more faithful disciples.

A time of silent reflection and self-examination

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends of Jesus, we are made clean by the words He has spoken to us. There is room in our lives and in our community for the Holy One to dwell. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Call to Communion
A Prayer for the Elements

Sharing of the Bread & the Cup
+ *In the center of each bread tray is a small cup filled with gluten free bread* +
Prayer of Sending

*BENEDICTION Pastor Jason

* BENEDITION RESPONSE Amen Haugen

*POSTLUDE *To God Be the Glory* arr.Larson

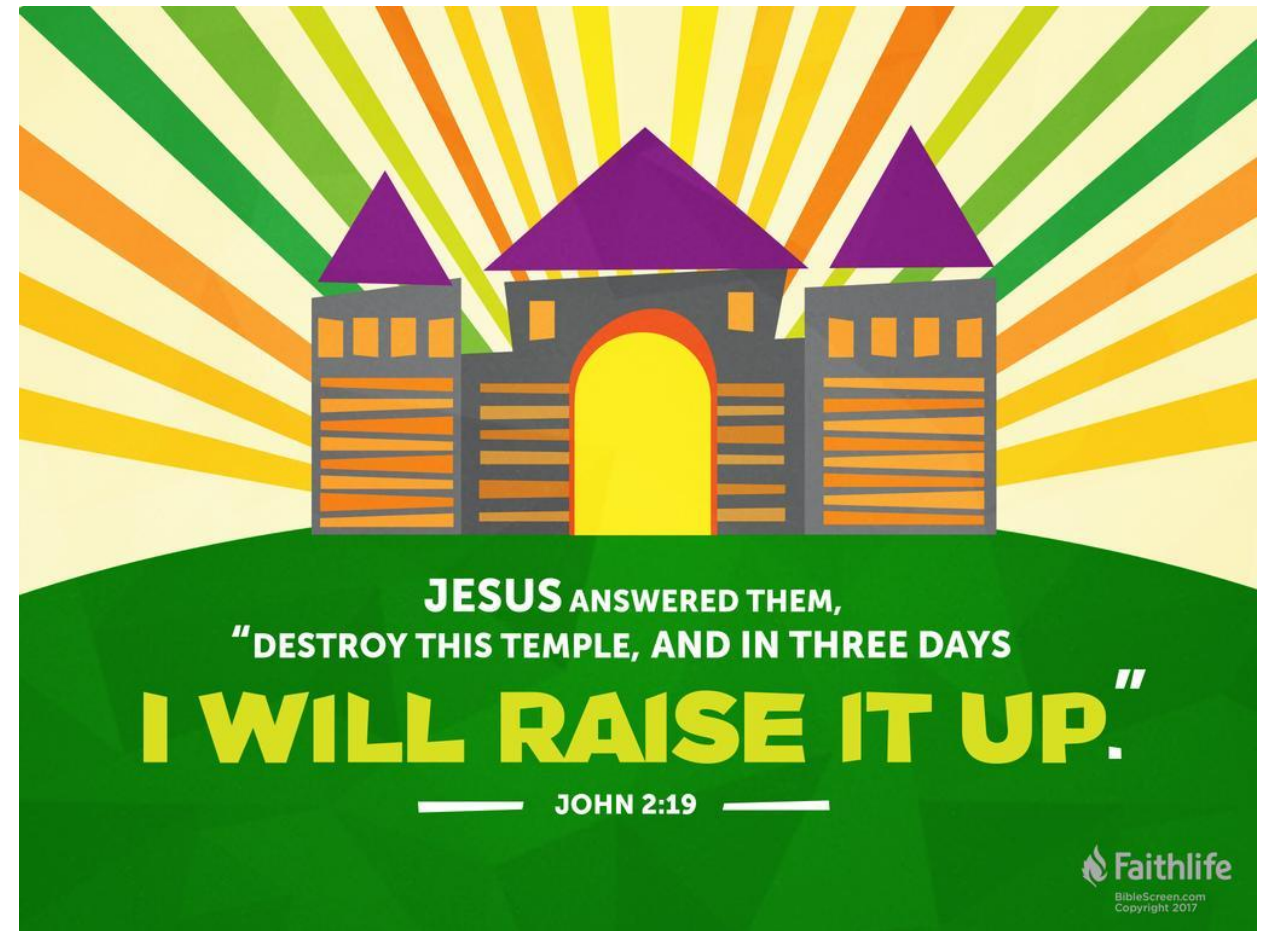
*Please stand in praise to God, if able
CCLI #982653

****Purify My Heart by Stan Pethal**

Today's choir anthem, *Purify My Heart* by Stan Pethel, reflects the theme of Lauren Pattie's remarks in the Lenten Devotionals that many within our congregation are reading called *Come Back to Jesus*. Some of you may remember Lauren, the daughter of former Pastor Mark Pattie. In her devotional, she tells us that Lent is a time to cleanse our hearts and remove the "habits, distractions, fears, and insecurities" that "clutter up the space that should be filled with nothing but God's presence." I encourage you to read her devotional for Tuesday, March 6. Booklets are available in the narthex as well as on-line.

Ginny Elson

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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