

Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2018

After his baptism, Jesus was tested in the wilderness for forty days.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

God of all mercy, bless and keep us in this wilderness journey so that we may come to the cross with renewed faith and faithfulness. Amen.

Gathering

PRELUDE

Selected

WELCOME

Carol Scoggins

*INTROIT #353

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (v.1)

Mote, 1834

*CALL TO WORSHIP

People of the covenant: God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions.

God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love!

The God of our salvation teaches us right paths and leads us in truth.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness: we put our trust in God.

*HYMN #353

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (v.2-4)

CALL TO CONFESSION

God's bow has been hung in the clouds—a unilateral disarmament in spite of our sin. God remains faithful to the covenant of steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful. Without fear, then, we confess our sins, first silently; then, with the Unison Prayer.

SILENT PRAYER

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us. In covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety and new life. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

*“Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.”*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood onto dry ground, so in baptismal waters we are brought from death into new life in Christ. Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, forgives us and reconciles us and all things in heaven and on earth. Thanks be to God for this good news!

*GLORIA PATRI

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. Amen.

#580

Proclaiming

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Psalm 25:1-10

Bibles, p.475/LG. p.618

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN #783

“When We Are Tested”

Duck, 1996

SECOND SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 3:18-22

Bibles, p.220/ LG. p.284

The Word of God, for the People of God

Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Life Through Death”

Rev. Lynette Solomon

Responding

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His life as man involves the church in the common life of men. His service to men commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all the sufferings of mankind so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of men in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on man's inhumanity to man and the awful consequences of its own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of man's life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

—The Confession of 1967 9.32 & 9.33

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Selected

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

COMMUNION HYMN #498 ***“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”*** Stuempfle Jr., 2005

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Those who are able may come down the center aisle to be served. If you prefer, please remain seated and the elements will be brought to you. The outer ring of the communion tray contains white grape juice and the inner rings contain wine.

Sending

*HYMN #65 ***“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*** (v.1&2) Williams, 1762

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE #65 ***“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*** (v.3)

POSTLUDE Selected

(*) Those who are able may stand.
Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

Lynette Solomon is an active member of Grace Presbytery in specialized ministry, and has been a teaching elder for 27 years. Having grown up in Dallas, she graduated from Austin College in Sherman, TX and received her Masters in Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary. She serves as chaplain, bereavement and volunteer coordinator for Genesis Hospice Care in Athens, where she has worked for 20 years. Lynette has been married to John Mark Solomon for 30 years, and they are the proud parents of two children, Luke and Kay. She enjoys serving as pulpit supply in various East Texas churches, and enjoys cooking, reading and outdoor activities with her family.

This week’s prayers and concerns: Debbie Castro, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Bob Schauwecker, Patsy Snelgrove, Billy Tapley, Sue Williams, and the Reynolds family.

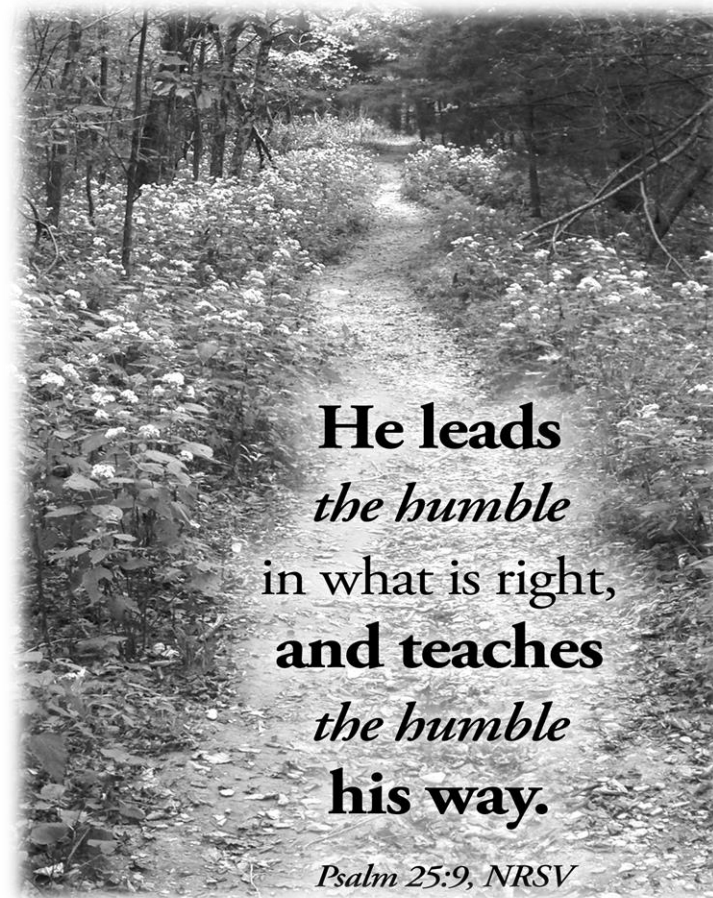
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon. 2/19

Home Communion

Sun. 2/25

Second Sunday in Lent



**He leads
the humble
in what is right,
**and teaches
the humble
his way.****

Psalm 25:9, NRSV

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