

Welcome to the
Setauket Presbyterian Church
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Second Sunday in Lent

Order of Worship

March 5, 2023

❖ *please rise in body or in spirit; unison words are in bold.*

On Communion Sundays the children will go to their Church School class at 9:30AM instead of the regular 9:45AM and join us for Communion

GATHERING MUSIC

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

The Light Enters

CALL TO WORSHIP

What is it like to be born from above?

It is to flow like water in a clear-running stream.

What is it like to be born from above?

It is to blow like a powerful wind over the plains.

What is it like to be born from above?

It is to be not just Spiritual, but Spirited.

What is it like to be born from above?

It is to be free to leave the old behind for a barely imagined new.

Let us worship God.

❖ HYMN no. 401 *Here in This Place*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new life, you call us into unknown places, and we bury our heads in the sand. You promise us all the stars in the sky, and we doubt it can be true. You speak of freedom and new life in the Spirit, and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance. Over and over and over again, you invite us to come closer to you, but we pull away. Lord, forgive us our sins and give us the courage to begin again with you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news: God's love is bigger than we can imagine. No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven. Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, we are made new. Please join me in saying:

We belong to God. We are held in God's love. We can begin again. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE Hymn no. 443 *There is a Redeemer*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we come to you today looking for new ways and deep freedom. We have questions: Who are we called to be? What do you need from us? Where are you in our midst? As we read your Word today, and listen to its proclamation, we ask that you speak

to us through these ancient stories. May we too experience what it is to be born from above! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING John 3:1-10

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Johanna McCune Wagner

SUNG RESPONSE no. 291 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* (verses 1, 2 & 4)

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

❖ DOXOLOGY no. 609

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God,
all creatures high and low: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

❖ DEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

God of new lands, and wind, water, and Spirit, we, your above-minded people, are grateful to you. Indeed, you have blessed us in so many ways. You give us a sense of purpose. You fill our lives with meaning. You call us to great tasks. May we be for someone else who you have been for us, namely, a source of strength when times are hard. Lord, bless these gifts to your use and us to your service, and make us ever mindful of others. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Ours is an open table. Visitors and children are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper. Please note that all shared Communion bread or crackers are gluten free, and all "wine" is grape juice.

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution and Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Hymn no. 525 Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together

on our knees;

let us break bread together

on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with

my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine...

Let us praise God...

Hymn no. 507 Come to the Table of Grace

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table;

it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of ...

...peace...

...love...

...hope...

...joy...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Where don't we seek after you, God?

We look for you in the mirror, in strangers, in sunrises, on mountain tops, in the laughter of children, and in meals shared together. We look for you on the city streets, in hospital rooms, in jail cells, in poetry, and hymn melodies. We look for you everywhere!

Sometimes the seeking is hard, but then at other times, we come to this Table and all are fed, and all are welcomed, and there is room for everyone, and no one is turned away, or made to feel unworthy.

And in those moments, we see you clearly. So thank you for meeting us in our seeking.

Please don't stop seeking us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

❖ **HYMN no. 541** *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

❖ **BENEDICTION**

We say and sing these words together with our siblings in Christ in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba

The benediction of the God of Sarah, Hagar and Abraham,

The benediction of the Son, who was born of Mary,

The benediction of the Holy Spirit of love,

Who watches over us like a mother for her children,

Descend upon us all. Amen.

La bendición de Dios de Sar' Agar y Abram;

La bendición del hijo que de María nació;

La bendición del Santo Espiritu de'amor

Que vela por nosotros, cual madre por sus hijos,

Descienda sobre todos, Amen.

THE SESSION

The Rev. Dr. Johanna McCune Wagner, Moderator

The Rev. Ashley McFaul-Erwin

Stuart Campbell, Clerk

CLASS of 2024

Jamie Moore

Susan Ryan

Beth Senf

Patricia Siegal

Susan Spagnoli

CLASS of 2025

Greg Cote

Debra Sabatini Dwyer

Alice Leser

Michael Tucci

CLASS of 2026

Meghan Kortmann

Melanie McDermet

Chris Roth

Arlene Rogers

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Sarah Mostow

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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Founders Circle: Carol Ullo and Arlene Rogers, Co-Moderators

THE STAFF

Rev. Dr. Johanna McCune Wagner, Pastor

Rev. Ashley McFaul-Erwin, Community Outreach Pastor

Noby Ishida, Director of Music

Heidi Parles, Spiritual Formation Coordinator

Aaron Watkins-Lopez, Church Administrator and Assistant to the Pastor

Elizabeth Smith, Communications Coordinator

Heather Klein, Preschool Teacher/Co-Director Yvonne Sterrett, Preschool Teacher/Co-Director

Richard A. Holroyd, Church Treasurer

Jean Hrbek, Financial Secretary

Eva Stanganelli, Outreach Operations Manager

The Setauket Presbyterian Church

Established in 1660

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Setauket Presbyterian Church is a member congregation the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),

and thereby of the Presbytery of Long Island.