



Little Light and Surprising Seeds
March 23, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent



MEDITATION

When the time's toxins
have seeped into every cell

and like a salted plot
from which all ran, all green, are gone

I and life are leached
of meaning

somehow a seed
of belief

sprouts the instant
I acknowledge it:

little weedy hardy would-be
greenness

tugged upward
by light

while deep within
roots like talons

are taking hold again
of this our only earth.

- Christian Wiman, "When the Time's Toxins"

He is your best servant, O Lord, who hopes not so much to hear from you what he wants to hear, but rather hopes to do what he hears from you.

- Augustine, *Confessions*

These readings are provided as a personal, family, or group worship resource. Use them along with your worship guide as resources for readings, prayers and hymns. Set in the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a schedule of daily Bible readings in accord with the Church year, these scripture readings are designed around a three-year cycle that will take you through the Old Testament once, the New Testament twice, and the Psalms frequently.

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
Monday, March 24th	Psalm 39	Jeremiah 11:1-17	Romans 2:1-11
Tuesday the 25th	Psalm 39	Ezekiel 17:1-10	Romans 2:12-16
Wednesday the 26th	Psalm 39	Numbers 13:17-27	Luke 13:18-21
Thursday the 27th	Psalm 32	Joshua 4:1-13	2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5
Friday the 28th	Psalm 32	Joshua 4:14-24	2 Corinthians 5:6-15
Saturday the 29th	Psalm 32	Exodus 32:7-14	Luke 15:1-10

Lectionary selections are reprinted from Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings copyright © 2005. Consultation on Common Texts, Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Reproduced by permission.

WELCOME

Second City Church is a community that exists to worship the Triune God and to celebrate, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Harrisburg.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We hope this guide will help you participate in our service. If you have any questions about our worship, faith, or how you can be a part of our mission to serve God and neighbor in Harrisburg, be sure to talk to our pastor.

For Parents:

Children of all ages are welcome to remain with us as we worship. We like the noise; it helps us remember we are alive. The following services are available for you and your children to get the most out of your time of worship:

Infant & Toddler Care

Infant and toddler care is available on the first floor of the east wing of our building. Ask one of our greeters if you need help locating this room. Nursery staff are well-trained, have required background checks, and maintain a safe environment for your child(ren).

Children & Worship

Children & Worship is for children ages preschool through 2nd grade and meets in a worship space below the sanctuary during the sermon. They are dismissed during the announcements and return during the offertory. New families are welcome to tour the space before or after a service if desired.

ADVENT + CHRISTMAS + EPIPHANY + LENT + EASTER + PENTECOST + TRINITY

Lent is a 40 day season of confession and repentance in preparation for Easter. Christians have been keeping the season of Lent since the 2nd century. During this season Christians typically fast on certain days and abstain from certain things in order shape our hearts and souls towards repentance. The 40 day fast of Lent symbolizes several events in salvation history: Jesus' 40 day fast in the wilderness, Israel's 40 year wandering in the desert, and the 40 days of rain cleansing the earth during the flood of Noah, among others. The liturgical colors for Lent are purple and black, symbolizing mourning and repentance.

Please note that our services are live-streamed.



LITURGY OF PREPARATION

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,**
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

- Psalm 103:1-5

Gathering Hymn - Beautiful Scandalous Night

Go on up to the mountain of mercy
To the crimson perpetual tide
Kneel down on the shore, be thirsty no more
Go under and be purified

Follow Christ to the holy mountain
Sinner sorry and wrecked by the fall
Cleanse your heart and your soul
In the fountain that flowed
For you and for me and for all

At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree
On that beautiful scandalous night you and me
We're atoned by His blood and forever washed white
On that beautiful, scandalous night

On the hillside, you will be delivered
At the foot of the cross justified

And Your spirit restored, by the river that poured
From our blessed Savior's side
At the wonderful, tragic, mysterious tree
On that beautiful scandalous night you and me
We're atoned by His blood and forever washed white
On that beautiful, scandalous night

Confession Hymn - Lord, Have Mercy

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy

Holy Spirit rest upon us, lead us in the way of your justice
Holy Spirit rest upon us, teach us how to serve in our weakness

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy

Holy Spirit rest upon us, teach us how to tend to creation
Holy Spirit rest upon us, guide us from our path of destruction

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness & Peace

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

[Invitation for congregation to share a sign of peace with one another]

Hymns of Praise and Adoration

O The Deep Deep Love Of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast unmeasured, boundless, free
Rolling as a mighty ocean, in its fullness over me
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love
Leading onward, leading homeward, to Thy glorious rest above

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore
How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee

There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood

There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's vein
And sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains
Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains
And sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains

The dying thief rejoiced to see, that fountain in his day
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away
Washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away

Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood, shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed church of God, be saved, to sin no more
Be saved, to sin no more, be saved, to sin no more
Till all the ransomed church of God, be saved, to sin no more

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream, thy flowing wounds supply
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die

When this poor lisp'ing stamm'ring tongue, lies silent in the grave
Then in a nobler sweeter song, I'll sing Thy pow'r to save
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save, I'll sing Thy pow'r to save
Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I'll sing Thy pow'r to save



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Living Our Faith

Blessing Our Children

Jesus called the children to him and said,

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,

for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

March Memory Verse

What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

Mark 8:36

Psalm Reading

Psalm 104:10-13; page 595

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.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24; page 837

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 3:5-9; page 1132

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark:
Glory to you, O Lord!

Mark 4:21-34; page 998

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Pastor Peter Rowan - Little Light and Surprising Seeds

Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ,

his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended to heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

- The Apostles' Creed

Offering of Prayers of the People

**God of all seasons,
in your pattern of things
there is a time for keeping and a time for losing,
a time for building up and a time for pulling down.
In this season of Lent
as we journey to the cross,
help us to discern in our lives
what we must lay down and what we must take up,
what we must end and what we must begin.
Give us grace to lead a disciplined life,
in glad faithfulness and with the joy
that comes from a closer walk with Christ.**

Hear us as we bring before you the needs of our church, our community and the world.

**In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Offering of Gifts

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

Friends and members of Second City Church support the extension of God's Kingdom with gifts of bread, wine, talents and resources. Guests are not expected to contribute. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering plates, boxes on the wall as you leave, or can be made electronically. Instructions for setting up online giving are available at the donation boxes.



Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Invitation

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 for us to give thanks and praise.

Praise God for His Mighty Acts

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Holy, Most Holy Lord, Lord God of power and might
Heaven and earth are filled, filled with your holy light

O blessed is the one, the one who comes

Comes in the name of God

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna

Hosanna in the highest

Praise for Christ's Sacrifice

Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Calling on the Holy Spirit and Lord's Prayer

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us:

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Invitation to the Table

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us once for all upon the cross.

Therefore let us keep the feast!

Sharing Holy Communion

Second City Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ in a Christian church to join us in this sacrament. Non-communicants can come forward and ask for a blessing. If you need to receive communion in your seat, ask a fellow worshiper to let the communion servers know. If you are unable to receive wine, you will find a chalice containing non-alcoholic grape juice at the station the pastor is serving. The communion bread is gluten-free.

Closing Prayer

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.

Amen.

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, who leads you into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.

Amen.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.

Amen.

Closing Hymn - I Need Thee Every Hour

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord
No tender voice like Thine, can peace afford
I need Thee O I need Thee, every hour I need Thee
O bless me now my Savior, I come to Thee

I need Thee every hour, stay Thou near by
Temptations lose their pow'r, when Thou art nigh
I need Thee O I need Thee, every hour I need Thee
O bless me now my Savior, I come to Thee

I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain
I need Thee O I need Thee, every hour I need Thee
O bless me now my Savior, I come to Thee

I need Thee every hour, most Holy One
O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son
I need Thee O I need Thee, every hour I need Thee
O bless me now my Savior, I come to Thee

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Amen.



ATTRIBUTIONS

Beautiful, Scandalous Night

Words and Music by Derald Daugherty and Steve Hindalong
© 1995 Never Say Never Songs; New Spring
Used by Permission

Lord, Have Mercy

Words and Music by Paul Zach, Kate Bluett and Latifah Alattas
© 2022 Integrity's Alleluia! Music; Kate Bluett Music and Paul Zach Publishing
Used by Permission

O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis (1834-1925)
Music: EBENEZER
Adapted by Thomas John Williams (1869-1944)

There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood

Words by William Cowper
Music: Cleansing Fountain

Holy, Most Holy Lord

Paraphraser (into English): Greg Scheer
Tune: SANNANINA

Little Things With Great Love

By Audrey Assad, Isaac Wardell, and Madison Cunningham
© 2017 Porters Gate Publishing and Hymns From the Porter's Gate
Used by Permission

I Need Thee Every Hour

Words by Annie Sherwood
Music by Hawks Robert Lowry

CCLI License #11245570

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Bookshelf Outside Narthex for Books to Borrow (or Buy for \$5)

You may have noticed the new bookshelf in the room outside the Narthex. Feel free to borrow a book from the shelf and return it when you're finished reading it. If you like the book so much you decide to keep it, you can donate \$5 in the white jar on the shelf. Happy reading!

Children's Sunday School Classes for March

During all five Sundays in March, the church is offering a series of classes on the book of Acts. The classes meet at 9 am in the same upstairs Logos classrooms where they met during the January session. There are two classes: ages 3 - 7 and ages 8 - 13.



ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Lenten Prayer Guide

One of Pastor Peter's close pastor friends, Hansoo Jin, has put together a Lenten prayer guide for his church, Renewal Presbyterian in Philly. Please consider using this prayer guide during Lent. It's a simple prayer guide that focuses on the plain truth of Jesus Christ, but it is written from perspectives that aren't always centered in the Western Church, especially the PCA: POC and women throughout Church history and the PCA. It can be accessed by the QR code here:



Church Office Closed Until March 27th

Please be advised that Sylvia is out of town from March 18th through 25th, and no one will be checking the church's email and voicemail accounts during her absence. She will return to work Thursday, March 27th.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for the following people:

Dottie Roden
Darwin Leshner
Gail Pennay
Virginia Anderson

Nevin White
Sophia James, USAF
Jessica Gazsi
Tony Russo

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please consider liking, following and subscribing to our social media! Also, when you see, read or watch something you like, share it with your friends. It's a helpful way to let others know we are here!

Facebook



Instagram



YouTube



Your contact information

If you are our guest and would like to indicate your presence with us, or if you'd like to make us aware of a change in your contact information, fill out this form and place it in the offering plate.

_____ Visitor
_____ Regular Attendee
_____ Member

Name(s):

Address (please include city and zip):

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Prayer

Requests: _____

Contact us

(717) 232-0604
251 Verbeke St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102
www.seconddcitychurch.org

Office hours:

Tues. & Thurs., 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Pastor

Peter Rowan
peter@seconddcitychurch.org

Music Coordinator

Jess Reapsome
jess@seconddcitychurch.org

Children's Ministry Director

Hannah Hollander
hannah@seconddcitychurch.org

Administrator

Sylvia Olimpi
office@seconddcitychurch.org

Elders

Dan James
Jonathan Hendrickson (Clerk)
Dave Tanis
Bruce Weatherly