

Seed and Soil
March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent



MEDITATION

There is nothing of which I am more thoroughly aware than the utter difference which there is between a speculative and an experimental conviction of the same truth...I long for more of the life and freshness of an actual contact with these things-for the kingdom of God as abundantly in power as it is in word.

- Thomas Chalmers, *Letters*

How can this strange story of God made flesh, of a crucified Savior, of resurrection and new creation become credible for those whose entire mental training has conditioned them to believe that the real world is the world which can be satisfactorily explained and managed without the hypothesis of God? I know of only one clue to the answering of that question, only one real hermeneutic of the gospel: a congregation which believes it.

- Lesslie Newbigin

We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God.

- Thomas Merton

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 17th	Psalm 105:1-42	Exodus 33:1-6	Romans 4:1-12
Tuesday the 18th	Psalm 105:1-42	Numbers 14:10b-24	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Wednesday the 19th	Psalm 105:1-42	2 Chronicles 20:1-22	Luke 13:22-31
Thursday the 20th	Psalm 63:1-8	Daniel 3:19-30	Revelation 2:8-11
Friday the 21st	Psalm 63:1-8	Daniel 12:1-4	Revelation 3:1-6
Saturday the 22nd	Psalm 63:1-8	Isaiah 5:1-7	Luke 6:43-45

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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

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

Psalm 130:1-2. 5-6

Gathering Hymn - I Heard The Voice of Jesus Say

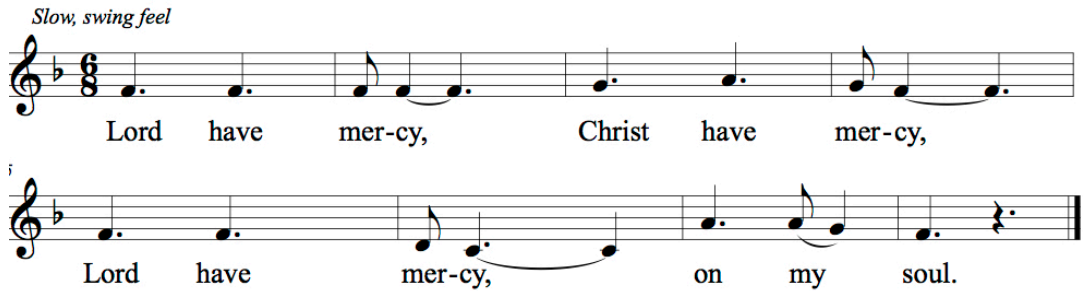
I heard the voice of Jesus say
Come unto me and rest
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast
I came to Jesus as I was
So weary, worn, and sad
I found in him a resting place
And he has made me glad

I heard the voice of Jesus say
Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one
Stoop down and drink, and live
I came to Jesus, and I drank

Of that life-giving stream
My thirst was quenched,
My soul revived
And now I live in him

I heard the voice of Jesus say
I am this dark world's light
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise
And all thy day be bright
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till traveling days are done

Confession Hymn - *Lord Have Mercy*



Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, please forgive our sins and set us free from them.

We have been sure of our own goodness and importance and have looked down on others. Help us to appreciate the true worth of other people.

We confess the sin of pride.

We have been displeased when others have been more successful or sought after than we have been. We have been jealous of what others have. Help us to be glad when others prosper.

We confess the sin of envy.

We have lost our tempers and nursed grievances. Help us to be patient and understanding with everyone.

We confess the sin of anger.

We want more than what we need of food, technology and life experiences. In our excesses, we have neglected the needs of others. Help us to deny ourselves so that others may not be in want. Help us to be content.

We confess the sin of gluttony.

In one way or another we have used sex wrongly and our desires are disordered. We have used it to escape or to gain power or to create false intimacy. Help us to rejoice in the sexuality you have given us and order our lives accordingly.

We confess the sin of lust.

We have let money and things define us, and be our security and comfort. We have served Mammon instead of you. Help us to put money and things in their proper place in our lives, as good gifts from you to be used for others.

We confess the sin of greed.

We have been lukewarm in our faith and in our lives. We have allowed a veneer of busyness to cover areas of laziness. Make us eager to do your will and seek first your kingdom.

We confess the sin of sloth.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Forgiveness & Peace

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-7

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

Doxology

To Him who is able
To keep you from falling
To Him, to Him, to Him
To Him, to Him, to Him
[Repeat]

We are standing in His presence, with our garments clean and white
All glory, honor, power, majesty to Jesus Christ

To Him who is able
To keep you from falling
To Him, to Him, to Him
To Him, to Him, to Him

We are standing in His presence, with our garments clean and white
All glory, honor, power, majesty to Jesus Christ

In The Fields

In the fields of the Lord, our work is rest
He is moving in our hands and feet to bless
In the fields of the Lord, in the fields of the Lord
in the fields of the Lord our work is rest

In the vineyards of the Lord our work is light
He is tending every leaf and every vine
In the vineyards of the Lord, in the vineyards of the Lord
In the vineyards of the Lord our work is light

In the garden of the Lord our work is sound
He is weaving every thorn into a crown
In the garden of the Lord, in the garden of the Lord
In the garden of the Lord our work is sound

At the harvest of the Lord the fields are white
He will wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
At the harvest of the Lord, at the harvest of the Lord
at the harvest of the Lord the fields are white



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 29; page 544

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

Isaiah 6:8-10; page 678

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

James 1:19-21; page 1199

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 4:1-20; page 997

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Pastor Peter Rowan - Seed and Soil

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, thank you for your presence during the hard and mean days. For then we have you to lean upon. Thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days. For then we can share that which we have with those who have less.”

- Maya Angelou

“Help us to be mindful that we are not alone. When we need wisdom, we need only to ask for it. You have promised to bestow it liberally.... Teach us to know that if we are to be successful stewards, we must be your servants.”

- Barbara Jordan

For what else shall we pray?

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

Offering of Gifts

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

Proverbs 11:24

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



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

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. 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 - Your Labor is Not in Vain

Your labor is not in vain
Though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained
Your planting and reaping are never the same
But your labor is not in vain

Your labor is not unknown
Though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan
The place of your toil may not seem like a home
But your labor is not unknown

Refrain:

For I am with you, I am with you
I am with you, I am with you
For I have called you, called you by name
Your labor is not in vain

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth
For all that is old will at last be made new
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
[Refrain]

The houses you labored to build
will finally with laughter and joy be filled
The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed
and all that is broken be healed
[Refrain]

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Amen.



ATTRIBUTIONS

I Heard The Voice of Jesus Say

Horatius Bonar (1846)

Tune: Star of the County Down

Sanctus

Holy God of Power and Might

Music by Christian Davis

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie Eleison

Doxology

Words and Music by Sandra McCracken

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Your Labor is Not in Vain

Words and Music by Wendell Kimbrough, Paul Zach and Isaac Wardell

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In The Fields of the Lord

Words and Music by Audrey Assad and Isaac Wardell

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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:



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for the following people:

Dottie Roden
Darwin Leshner
Gail Pennay
Virginia Anderson

Nevin White
Sophia James, USAF
Amy Kemper
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

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