

**PRELUDE, GATHERING,
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Thursday – 10 Commandments Study continues.
Next Sunday – Grace vs. Law (and Justice) in Les Miserables – Javier*

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER (based on Psalm 25) TMO/PO

O God, in you we trust.
Lead us in your truth and teach us,
for you are the God of our salvation;
for you we wait; it is you we worship. Amen

HYMN Come, Thou Almighty King **61**

SCRIPTURES **Genesis 9:8–17**
Mark 1:9–15
1 Peter 3:18–22

CHOIR This Is My Father's World

CONFESSION TMO/PO

*We pause here to examine our lives, our temptations, and
the ways we have fallen short before our God.
Let us confess our sins together.*

Gracious God, as we begin
this Lenten wilderness journey with Jesus,
we confess our neglect of you and our faith.

We make idols of nation, money and power.
We build walls instead of better relationships.
We fail to follow Jesus
to the poor, the destitute, the stranger.

Empty us this Lent, Holy God.
Guide us in our faith
so we can leave this wilderness season
in right relationship with you. Amen.

{silent prayers}

*Remember and receive these hopeful words from John 8:31-32,
"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and
you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
Receive God's truth. Receive God's grace.
Accept the freedom God provides.*

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON SERIES *Themes of Faith Illustrated in "Les Mis"*
Today: Grace and Jean Valjean

HYMN Be Thou My Vision **451**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INTERCESSIONS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER (Mark 1:9-15) GBoD/DM

Holy God, we bring our tithes and offerings to you today,
understanding that on the journey in Lent,
we can't avoid or detour around the wilderness.

It is essential that we hear Jesus call us to repentance!
Bless our gifts for your unfinished kingdom work.
Remind us, as we worship here, that
this redemption of our lives did not come without a price;
without our own repentance,
we can miss the enormity of the gift Jesus gave.
Knowing we cannot earn this redemption and forgiveness,
this wiping clean of our ledger,
we can only hope to reflect such grace and compassion
in our encounters with others.

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN Take the Name of Jesus with You **536**

PRAYER & SENDING

*May the grace, hope, peace & love of God our Creator,
Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever.*

Amen

POSTLUDE

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Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures

As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary

First Sunday in Lent

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Scriptures

Genesis 9:8–17 1

Peter 3:18–22

Psalms 25:1–10

Mark 1:9–15

Questions for Reflection

The phrase “kingdom of God” occurs fourteen times in the Gospel of Mark. Jesus is God’s beloved Son, and his baptism signals the only realm to which he owes allegiance. His baptism, then, not only is a religious act, but also is a political and economic one.

In what ways does your baptism into Christ make claims on your political, social, and economic practices as well as your religious practices?

Morning Prayers:

God of ancient covenants,
your steadfast love and faithfulness remain new, every morning.
I thank you that I can begin this day
in the confidence of your abiding love and unending mercy.
Help me to treat others— family, friends, coworkers, classmates,
and even strangers— with love and mercy in our encounters today.

When I disappoint or am discordant,
help me to show love to others.

Open my eyes to the places, people, and circumstances
in which your kingdom has come near.

I pray in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Evening Prayers: *Gen. 9*

God of peace, as the day draws to a close
and the evening draws in around me,
I think of the creatures of the earth also seeking rest in these night hours.
You love them even as you love me,
and your covenant faithfulness covers all of us.

So, with the birds of the air, the beasts of the field,
and the tiny ones who burrow in the ground,
I offer you all thanks and praise: for your unending goodness;
for the beauty of our home, the earth;
for your gift of life instead of a deserved destruction.

As your colorful bow now rests in the clouds,
so may we color the earth with the ways of peace
until all creation rests with you in completeness.
In Christ’s name I pray. Amen.



February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

Clarksburg United Methodist Church

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