

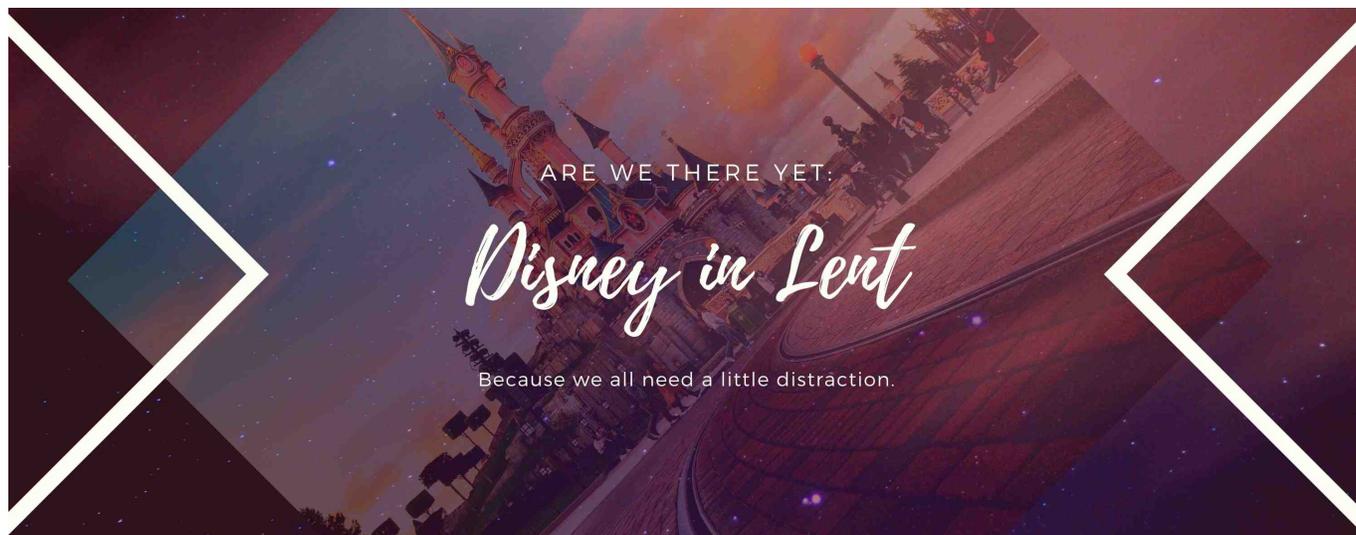
# MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 East Simpson Street

Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055-6596

717-697-0351 • [www.mechpresby.org](http://www.mechpresby.org)

February 28, 2021 • 2nd Sunday of Lent • 10am



## Welcome & Concerns of the Church

Prelude

*Prelude - Chorale*

Ettore Fornasa

## Call to Worship

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace.

**Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life.**

Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days.

**Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love.**

In your holy name, we pray.

**Amen.**

Hymn #165

*The Glory of These Forty Days*

ERHALT UNS, HERR

*The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, by whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.*

*Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;  
and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.*

*So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions' might;  
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.*

*Then grant that we like them be true, consumed in fast and prayer with you;  
our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.*

## Call to Confession

We are a community and a covenant people, who have all fallen short of the glory of God. Therefore, trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins together.

## Prayer of Confession

**Divine Gardener, you cannot sow seeds of justice and peace where there is nothing but hearts of dry, hard rocks.**

**We confess that our hearts need tilling and the pruning of our growing sins that crowd out new growth with divine compassion.**

**God of steadfast love,  
you change bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy,  
Now let us sprout a new life, growing with integrity!**

**God of steadfast love,  
you change the cold shame of contrite hearts with sunrays of mercy  
Now let us blossom a new life, growing with honesty!**

**God of steadfast love,  
you change the stony edges of repentant hearts into landscapes of mercy,  
Now let us branch out into new life, growing with generosity!**

## Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News! The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Thanks be to God, Amen!

## Response #551

*Lord, Have Mercy*

*Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.*

## We Love to Tell the Story

### Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Lesson

Psalm 22:23-31

Our Scripture this morning is from Psalm 22, verses 23 through 31:

*You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!*

*For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.*

*From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.*

*The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!  
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.*

*For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.  
To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.  
Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,  
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.*

## **Special Music**

### **Scripture Lesson**

John 15:1-17

*'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.*

The story of God for the people of God... **Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

*Beauty and the Beast  
Go Big or Go Home?*

Reverend Mark Allio

### **Declaration of Faith – just words on screen**

The Apostles' Creed

*Our church states its faith and bears witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ by using ten creeds and confessions. In these confessional statements the church declares to its members and to the world who and what it is, what it believes and what it resolves to do. These confessional statements are subject to the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God. The following is the Apostles' Creed, which in its earliest form dates back to 180 AD. The word 'catholic' refers to the entire Christian church; 'quick' means living:*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

In your mercy Lord... **hear our prayer**

**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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## Offering of Tithes & Gifts

**Offertory**

*Pavane*

Gabriel Fauré

## Prayer of Dedication

**Response #215, v. 2**

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDROUS LOVE

*When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!*

## Charge & Benediction

---

**Pastor:** Mark Allio

**Liturgists:** Scott Rogers, Cathay Snyder, Cindy Walters

**Organist:** Mark McKeever

**YOU CAN CALL IN TO HEAR WORSHIP AT 10AM on SUNDAY MORNINGS**

**Dial (toll free): 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099**

A voice will welcome you to Zoom and ask you to enter the meeting ID which is: 717-697-0351#

You should then be able to hear the worship service.

The line will be open on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:45am.

**Join us for Tuesday Evening Prayer at 7:30pm this Lent on Zoom or Facebook Live:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86551663078?pwd=MHkwFFNR2o3QlErbmFsa1FMSzBoZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 5166 3078

Passcode: PRAYER

Or Dial toll free:

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

833 548 0276 US Toll-free

833 548 0282 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 865 5166 3078