

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW CANAAN

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT FEBRUARY 18, 2018

\* *ALL WHO ARE ABLE ARE INVITED TO STAND.*

#### GATHERING

Please prayerfully allow the silent, sacred space of the sanctuary

and the quiet stirrings of the Spirit to prepare your heart and mind for worship.

**PRELUDE** *“Nocturne”* John Field

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Minister: Welcome to the season of Lent, when we remember Jesus’ journey from the Jordan to the wilderness.

#### People: We remember the places of wilderness and temptation in our lives.

Minister: We remember Nazareth and Capernaum—the healings and the teachings, the cleansing of the Temple and the predictions of his death.

#### People: We still need his healing touch and stories of encouragement even as we are shocked by the wildness of his own story.

Minister: We remember the final days in Jerusalem—the garden, the cross and the tomb.

#### People: As we walk the wilderness journey of these forty days, may the light of their promise guide our steps.

**\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 263** *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”* ST. DENIO

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)** Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird

#### Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

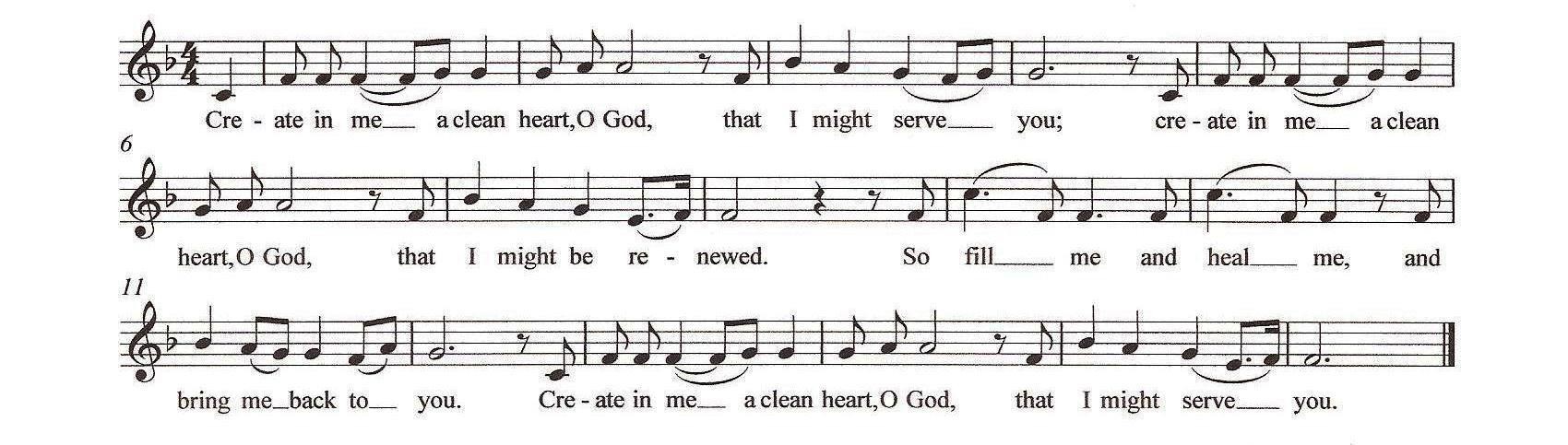
**Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

**Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me,**

**for your goodness’ sake, O LORD!** *--Psalm 25:4-7*

#### TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION…

**KYRIE ELEISON** *“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”*

#### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Minister: This is the good news in Jesus Christ: God remembers us in love.

#### People: God forgives us, encourages us and frees us to love others. Thanks be to God.

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** No. 579 The 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.**

**SHARING OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY**

Please sign the card and pass it to your neighbor. As you pass it back to the center, take note of who is here so we can become better acquainted. Visitors, please give your address, telephone, and e-mail information.

#### A TIME WITH CHILDREN

**CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO SUNDAY’S COOL ROTATION**

(Please bring your buck and a can offering with you to Sunday’s Cool)

#### THE WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)** Jim Ely

**God of angels and wild animals, we come to your word seeking understanding and the new life it offers. By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds that we might faithfully follow you in the wilderness of life. Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON** Genesis 9:8-17 (OT page 7)

Minister: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

#### People: Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM** *“Teach me, O Lord”* Thomas Attwood Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

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| **SECOND LESSON** | Mark 1:9-15 (NT pages 34-35)  Minister: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.  **People: Thanks be to God.** |  |
| **SERMON** | *“Wilderness Time”* | Rev. Mary Marple Thies |
|  | **RESPONDING** |  |
| **\* HYMN No. 83** | *“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”* | DEO GRACIAS |

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

#### People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray...

#### LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

**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.**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS AND OURSELVES**

**OFFERTORY** *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”* Alfred V. Fedak When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss,

and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the cross of Christ my God: all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

\* **DOXOLOGY** OLD HUNDREDTH

#### Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SENDING**

* **HYMN No. 81** *“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”* ST. FLAVIN
* **CHARGE AND BLESSING** (Please be seated for the Choral Response & the Ringing of the Church Bell) **CHORAL RESPONSE** *“God Be in My Head”* John Rutter **RINGING THE CHURCH BELL**

\* **POSTLUDE** “Gigue” Jean Baptiste Loeillet

#### TODAY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Welcome to the Service of Worship for the Lord’s Day. Parents of **infants through age four** are encouraged to take their children to the Nursery School classrooms during our services. **Students in preK-7** should follow their teachers to class.

#### Today in Sunday’s Cool

**Greeters**:

**Worship Coordinator:** John Servidea; **Ushers:** Jim Beall, Jo Ann Nerenburg, Charlie and Sarah Robinson

**Cross Bearer:** Lis Ely; **Lay Reader:** Jim Ely**; Musicians:** The First Presbyterian Church Choir

**Let us keep in our thoughts and prayers: *Continued concerns:*** Neil Coakley; Ann Depuy; John Edwards; Graham Harden; Vince Lombardi; Jim Mierendorf; Alanna Ruszkowski; The Stricos family (friends of Joe and Diana Ruszkowski); Ronald Witt. *The Abo Noktah family (our Syrian refugees):* Khaldoun (father), Khawla Alzob (mother), daughters Hanin and Zain, and sons Yaman and Ahmed.

**Flower Memorials:** If you wish to have flowers in the sanctuary to celebrate an anniversary, a baptism, a birthday, or to memorialize a loved family member or friend please call Barbara Wentzel, Flower Coordinator, at 203-966-5402 or email at [barbarawentzel@mac.com](mailto:barbarawentzel@mac.com).

**No Gift Too Small!** The Bell Tower Society welcomes gifts and bequests of all sizes. Every dollar given makes a difference in serving the long-term welfare of our church. If you have questions about remembering the church in your estate plans, please contact Jim Beall in the church office.

**New Canaan Food Pantry:** Items in need now due to low/no stock are Pancake Mix – Add Water Only, Syrup, Herbal Tea, Taco Kit, Corned Beef Hash, Cookies, Crackers, Tortilla Chips, Pretzels, Kids Juice Boxes. **No beans or soup are needed now.** Please drop these items in the shopping cart at the back of the Sanctuary and we will make sure they are delivered to the New Canaan Food Pantry.

**Cents-ability:** On February 4, we collected $111. Our total collection since we began Cents-ability at our church in November 2011 is $18,672. Thank you for your awareness and generous response to hunger. If you would like more information on Cents-ability or need a Cents-ability cup, please call the church office. Remember to fill up your Cents-ability cup ‘til it runneth over! **Our next collection is March 4.**

# Preparing for Lent

***Into the Wilderness***

Lent is the period preceding Easter when we Christians are challenged to focus on our sinfulness and need for God’s mercy. Mirroring the forty days of Jesus’ time in the wilderness when he was tested, Lent is our wilderness time, too. In Sunday worship, we will explore the idea of what it means to be in wilderness time. Christians use prayer, Bible study, acts of mercy, repentance and Christian conversation to reflect on how they are tested in their faith, how they separate themselves from God and one another. Lent is wilderness time, but there are oases in this wilderness, for it is interrupted by six Sundays. On Sunday we continue to celebrate the resurrection. Lent, then is a time that is marked by solemnity and joy, sin and grace, death and life. It is appropriate then to give up something as well as to add something, to empty oneself to make room for the Holy Spirit as well as to offer forgiveness, to fast from what stands between you and God and to feast on the promise of grace. We invite you to choose a special way to participate in the Season of Lent.

# Sunday Worship in Lent

**The First Sunday in Lent -- Sunday, February 18, 10:00 a.m.**

Scripture: Genesis 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15 Sermon by The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

**The Second Sunday in Lent -- Sunday, February 25, 10:00 a.m.**

Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Mark 9:2-9 Sermon by The Rev. Christopher G. Tate

**The Third Sunday in Lent -- Sunday, March 4, 10:00 a.m.**

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, Cents-ability Collection for Hunger Scripture: Exodus 20:1-7, John 2:13-22 Guest preacher

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent -- Sunday, March 11, 10:00 a.m.**

Scripture: Numbers 21:1-9, John 3:14-21 Sermon by The Rev. Christopher G. Tate

**The Fifth Sunday in Lent -- Sunday, March 18, 10:00 a.m.**

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33 Sermon by The Rev. Mary Marple Thies



Vespers: An Evening Service for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Sunday, March 18th at 4:00 p.m. at FPC**

The combined choirs of FPC and Round Hill Community Church, Greenwich, will lead a service of evening worship, or "Vespers". This intimate service will feature Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* for choir, organ, harp, violin, and cello. Come find quiet and stillness as we prepare for Christ's journey from the cross to resurrection.

**Giving Up the Organ for Lent:** It’s a little early for Lent, actually. But due to the new roof being put on the sanctuary, we will be without the beautiful sounds of the organ for a few months. It is necessary to cover the organ console and certain pipes during the roof project so dust cannot damage more sensitive pipes. We will still present beautiful music with piano accompaniment and a capella anthems, which we are already accustomed to. The organ should be in use by Sunday, March 18th, in time for the choir's presentation of Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* with Round Hill Community Church, Greenwich.

**Wednesday Lenten Dinners and Bedtime Prayers**

A program for the whole family: A Lenten Dinner, Fellowship,

Stations of the Cross for Children, and Candlelight Worship for the entire Church Family 5:30pm-7:00pm

#### Featuring the “I Am Sayings of Jesus from the Gospel of John”

First Week of Lent—Jesus says, “I am the Bread of life.” (John 6:35)

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 with The Rev. Mary Marple Thies preaching

Second Week of Lent—Jesus says, “I am the light of the world.” (John 8:12)

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 with The Rev. Christopher G. Tate preaching

Third Week of Lent—Jesus says, “I am the Door.” (John 10:9)

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 with The Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird preaching

Fourth Week in Lent—Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd.” (John 10:11)

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 with The Rev. Mary Marple Thies preaching Fifth Week of Lent—Jesus says, “I am the true vine.” (John 15:1)

## Stations of the Cross a program for children and youth:

The program will begin on 2/28 and is led by our confirmation class. *Come for an interactive trip back in time*… see the disciples at the last supper, watch as Judas betrays Jesus for silver coins, see Jesus carry his cross to Golgotha and hammer nails into a large cross, visit the tomb where Jesus lay, and hear Mary talk about the first Easter morning.

### Mission and Outreach Opportunity: Food for the NC Food Pantry

First Presbyterian Church collects bags of food to fill the shelves of the New Canaan Food Pantry during the season of Lent. Take home a grocery bag, and bring it back filled with the items on the list. Each week watch as the back of our sanctuary grows in our love for those who need food and assistance right here in New Canaan. We will deliver the bags on Palm Sunday (March 25).



### Friday Café: Every Friday Morning!

Drop in at FPC on Friday mornings anytime between 9:30-10:30am – we’ll have the fire going, coffee and good company! Bring something yummy to share or just come for the fellowship. *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”* – I Thessalonians 5:11



**Winter Blast**

**Friday, March 2! 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

Defrost, decompress, and kiss old man winter goodbye!

We will enjoy food, fun and fellowship in the Common Room.

RSVP: February 26 Only $10 per adult.

So call Tina at 203-966-0002 or email her at [Tina@fpcnc.org](mailto:Tina@fpcnc.org) Fellowship starts in the kitchen!

Friday, March 2 from 2-5pm (meal prep and cooking) C’mon. you’ll have a BLAST!

#### THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840 Tel.: 203-966-0002 // [www.fpcnc.org](http://www.fpcnc.org/)

*Church Office Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18: 1st Sunday in Lent 10:00 AM Worship**



**Update from Interim Pastor Nominating Committee:**

We have begun receiving recommendations as well as inquiries from candidates through the PCUSA system and have begun scheduling preliminary interviews.

Your input is welcome!

**Committee Members:** Bob Caird, Chair Andrew Gifford

Natasha Moore Lombardi Constanze Sheridan Lynn Jackson Quinn

**Rev. Mary Marple Thies preaching** 10:15 AM Sunday’s Cool for Grades preK-7 11:15 AM **No** Cherub Choir

11:15 AM Coffee Hour

11:15 AM Board of Deacons

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19: President’s Day – offices closed**

2:00 PM Meditation Group

6:30 PM **No** Purple Heather Dancers

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

1:00 PM Leadership Team

8:00 PM Men’s A.A.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

10:00 AM Music Librarians

10:30 PM Pastoral Care Team

5:00 PM **No** Carol Choir

5:00 PM **No** Confirmation Class

**5:30 PM Lenten Dinner and Bedtime prayers**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

3:30 PM **No** Special Church

7:30 PM FPC Choir

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

9:30 AM Friday’s Café

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

9:15 AM A.A. (closed discussion)

10:30 AM A.A. (open discussion)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25: 2nd Sunday in Lent 10:00 AM Worship**

**Rev. Christopher G. Tate preaching** 10:15 AM Sunday’s Cool for Grades preK-7 11:15 AM **No** Cherub Choir

11:15 AM Coffee Hour

**OUR MINISTERS**

The Entire Congregation

**OUR PASTORS**

The Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird, Interim Acting Head of Staff The Rev. Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

Rev. Christopher G. Tate, Parish Associate

**OUR STAFF**

Victoria Shields, Director of Music / Sherry Tate, Cherub Choir director Joanne Pirrone, Bookkeeper / Tina St. Armand, Office Manager

Erika Hagan, Administrative Assistant to Children and Youth Ministries

Kuky and Andres Pereira, Operations/Security Managers / Edgar Torres, Day Sexton

**THE SESSION**

*Our Pastors*

*Scott Beyer, Clerk of Session*

*George Benington, Bell Tower Society Sue Benko, Communications*

*Laurel Carlson, Youth Ministries Carole Clarkson, Worship, Music and Arts*

*Linda Ferguson, Nominating Lisa Gifford, Congregational Life Jennifer Gulden, Personnel*

*Julie Hoffman, Member-At-Large Freia Mierendorf, Co-Youth Glenn Mierendorf, Outreach Dede McEvoy, Strategic Planning Andy Petitjean, Finance*

*Lynn Quinn, Adult Education Julie Reeves, Membership Involvement*

*Charles Robinson, co-Buildings and Grounds Rose-Scott Rothbart, co-Buildings and Grounds Kevin Thomson, Advisory Committee*

*Spencer Reeves, Co-Youth Jenny Volanakis, Children's Ministries*

*Barbara Wentzel, Stewardship*

**THE DEACONS**

Jen and Steve Van de Graaf, *Co-Moderators*

Carson Allsteadt, *Co-Youth*

Erica Bergmans, *Inspirica, Meals-on-Wheels*

Mary Jane Bolin, *Senior Lunch* Peg Bull, *Flock Program* William Dooley, *Co-Youth* Cindy Hagopian, *Inspirica*

Karen Hanson, *Memorial Services and Receptions*

Beth Hersam, *Flowers and Cards* Chris Kniffin, *Member-At-Large* Nichole LaBadie, *Co-Youth*

Linda Martin, *Baptisms; Flock Program* Sarah Robinson, *Pastoral Care Team* Kristen Rodgers, *Cards and Flowers* Kathleen Servidea, *Cards and Flowers*

Elizabeth Stuart, *Flowers and Cards, Treasurer*

Ashley Walker, *Co-Youth*

*Rev. T. Guthrie Speers, Jr., Pastor Emeritus - Mrs. Marilyn J. Ballantine, Minister of Music Emerita*