

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 25, 2018 10:15 A.M.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Prelude: "Ode to Joy" Beethoven
 "Jesus Loves Me" Bradbury
 "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" J. S. Bach
 "Your Grace Is Enough" Tomlin

Welcome and Announcements

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Silent Prayer and Preparation

- * Call to Worship: Psalm 63:1–5, 8
 O God, you are my God, for you I long, for you my soul is thirsting.
 I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.
 For your love is better than life, my lips will praise your praise.
 I will bless you all my life; in your name I will lift up my hands.
 My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods, my mouth will praise you.
 My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.
- * Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" PH 253
- * God's Greeting:
 Grace and peace be to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 Amen.
 The Lord be with you.
 And also with you.
 Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
 His mercy endures forever.
 O God, come to our assistance.
 O Lord, hasten to help us.
- * Prayer of the Day:
 Ever present God, we thank you for calling us to meet with you today. We praise you for coming to us long before we first came to you, for knowing who would be here today, and for knowing even our motives for coming. By your Spirit lead and guide us during this service, to help us hear you when you speak and to guide our responses with hearts and voices that rejoice in your presence. Amen.
- * Response: "All Creatures of Our God and King" PH 431, vv. 1, 5

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession: based on Psalm 139:23–24

God's Will for Our Lives: Ephesians 5:15–20

Prayer of Confession

Our Common Faith: based on Heidelberg Catechism, Q. & A. 17–18

Our Lord Jesus Christ—truly God and at the same time truly human and truly righteous—is the mediator who was given to set us completely free and to make us right with God. By the power of his divinity, he bore the weight of God's anger in his humanity, restoring us to righteousness and life.

Assurance of Pardon

Cadet Litany

Leader: No matter where we go, we know that God is seeking us.

Cadets/Counselors: We are thankful to God for his watchful care.

Leader: No matter what we do, we know that God is seeking us.

Congregation: We are thankful to God for his watchful care.

Leader: Over 2500 years ago God spoke to the prophet Ezekiel, giving him words to relay to God's people. "For this is what the Sovereign Lord says, I myself will search for my sheep and look after them" (Ezekiel 34:11).

Cadets/Counselors: We are grateful to be considered God's sheep and to have him look after us.

Leader: "As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so I will look after my sheep" (Ezekiel 34:12).

Congregation: We are grateful to be considered God's sheep and to have him look after us.

Leader: "I will rescue them from all the places where they are scattered on a day of clouds and darkness" (Ezekiel 34:12).

Cadets/Counselors: We are assured that no matter how bad things may seem, we are sheltered by God's protective hand.

Leader: "You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign Lord" (Ezekiel 34:31).

Congregation: We are assured that no matter how bad things may seem, we are sheltered by God's protective hand.

Leader: We know that God is all-powerful and that nothing can harm us. "Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Congregation: "For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care" (Psalm 95:7).

Leader: May we always remember that God is seeking us and God is with us forevermore. May we, as his sheep, each live a life worthy of God's calling.

Response: "Ten Thousand Reasons"

Insert

Congregational Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

* Hymn: "Living for Jesus"

PH 292

Prayer for Illumination

[Children age 3 - grade Pre-K may leave for Children's Church after the prayer.]

Scripture Reading:

Esther 2 (p. 489)

Sermon: *Unlikely Heroes*

Prayer

* Hymn: "I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew"

PH 498

OUR RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Cadet Report and Landmarks

* Offertory Prayer

Offering: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: "Prayer of St. Gregory"

Hovhanness

* Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (inside front cover of the Psalter Hymnal)

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

* Benediction:

Hebrews 13:20–21

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

* Response: "Bless His Holy Name"

PH 627

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

He has done great things, he has done great things,

He has done great things: bless his holy name.

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

* Postlude: "The Whole Armor of God"

Kendall
