# SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 8, 2020

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Welcome, Announcements & Greeting Time Brice Smith

Prelude "I Love You, Lord" Jan Mauck, Church Pianist

## \*Call to Worship

I look to the hills! Where will I find help?

- Our help comes from the Lord, who created the heavens and the earth.
- The Lord is your protector, and he won't go to sleep or let you stumble in the dark.

## The protector of Israel doesn't doze or ever get drowsy.

- The Lord is your protector, there at your right side to shade you from the sun.
- We will not be harmed by the sun during the day or by the moon at night.

The Lord will protect you and keep you safe from all dangers.

The Lord will protect us now and always wherever you go. Psalm 121:1-2 Contemporary English Version (CEV) Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

\*Opening #16 "The God of Abraham Praise" Leoni

\*Union Opening Prayer – Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before us, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Songs of Praise

# WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Old Testament Reading	Pat Carpenter	Genesis 12:1-4a
New Testament Reading		Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

*Gospel Reading		John 3:1-17
*Response BH	"Faith is the Victory"	Sankey

#### **Call to Confession**

Silent Reflection and Prayer of Confession – Almighty God, truly your Son has come, ushering in your kingdom and performing mighty deeds in your presence. Yet, we confess, we have been slow of heart to believe; we have remained attached to worldly concerns and neglected spiritual matters of eternal importance. Forgive us, O Lord, for wasting previous time, for mishandling your gift of faith, and for giving our attention on things that will not endure or satisfy. Refresh us and give us new life under the grace and in the power of your Holy Spirit. Give us the resolve to do your will, wisdom to discern your truth, and the living water of your Spirit, that we may drink deeply and forever find refreshment in the rive of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Declaration of Forgiveness** 

Presentation to our Tithes, Gifts, and Offerings & Prayer

# Offertory

**Children's Message** (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and younger to Junior Church)

# Message "The Cross Makes No Sense Apart from Faith" The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

**RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE** 

\*Invitation to Faith and Fellowship – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God's forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

*Song #287	"Lift High the Cross"	Crucifer
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## **\*Spoken Benediction** The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter

**LENT** - (Anglo-Saxon *lencten*, which means "spring") is a solemn religious period of 40 days, not counting Sundays, when Christians repent, fast, and prepare for the coming of Easter. The season begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Maundy Thursday. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

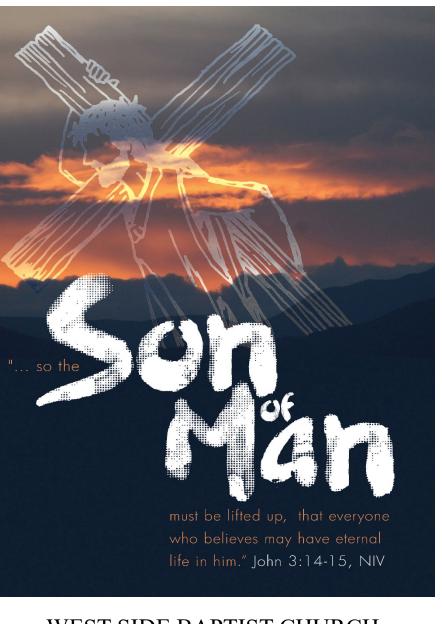
**BELIEVER'S BAPTISM** – We practice "believer's baptism" which is the immersion of a person in water – regardless of age – who receives Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior and publicly professes faith to walk the Jesus way. The Council schedules baptisms on most Sunday mornings throughout the year. If you would like to be baptized, then come to the front during the last song. West Side Baptist does *not* require persons to be "rebaptized" to join this Christian church.

**THE LORD'S SUPPER** – We celebrate the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) on the first Sunday of each month, and on special occasions. All persons of faith, regardless of age, race or church affiliation, are welcome to partake of the Table of the Lord. In solidarity with our brothers and sisters, we use only non-alcoholic grape juice. Please hold each element until everyone is served, then we will feast together. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.



American Baptist Church USA – American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with approximately 5,000 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico.

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WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH 1008 SW Fourth Street | Topeka, KS 66606 Phone: (785) 233-4241 www.wsbctopeka.org