

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name

*Opening Song (Stand) “God of Wonders” Worship Team

Opening Prayer (Stand)

Songs of Faith # 46 “This Is My Father’s World” *TERRA PATRIS*

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Sonia Roling

The First Reading Genesis 9:8-7

The Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Stand) Mark 1:9-15

*Responsorial (Stand) # 554 “As the Deer” Worship Team

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: Holy God, by the waters of the flood, by the waters of baptism, you drown the ways of evil in this world. By the testing of Jesus in the desert, you show us that you prevail over the tempter. Yet we have failed to fully trust the guidance of your Spirit in our own lonely, desert times. Thus, evil persists in this world by our own fault, fear, and anxiety. Forgive us, O God, and renew our faith, courage, and hope, that our obedience to you might demonstrate your glory in the world, in Jesus' name.

Declaration of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace with Family and Neighbors (Stand)

The Children's Sermon

Announcements & Prayers of the Community 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.



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Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations – What will you give to your Creator, who gives you life and leads you in truth? What do you bring to your Savior, who forgets the sins of the humble? How will you thank your Guiding Spirit, who teaches you the ways of steadfast love and faithfulness? Let us make our dearest offerings to Almighty God!

Offertory

A Prayer of Illumination & The Message **“God Does Not Give Up!”**
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

Notes:

WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH AND 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.

*Closing Hymn (Stand) # 435 “Just As I Am”

*Spoken Benediction

Postlude

Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

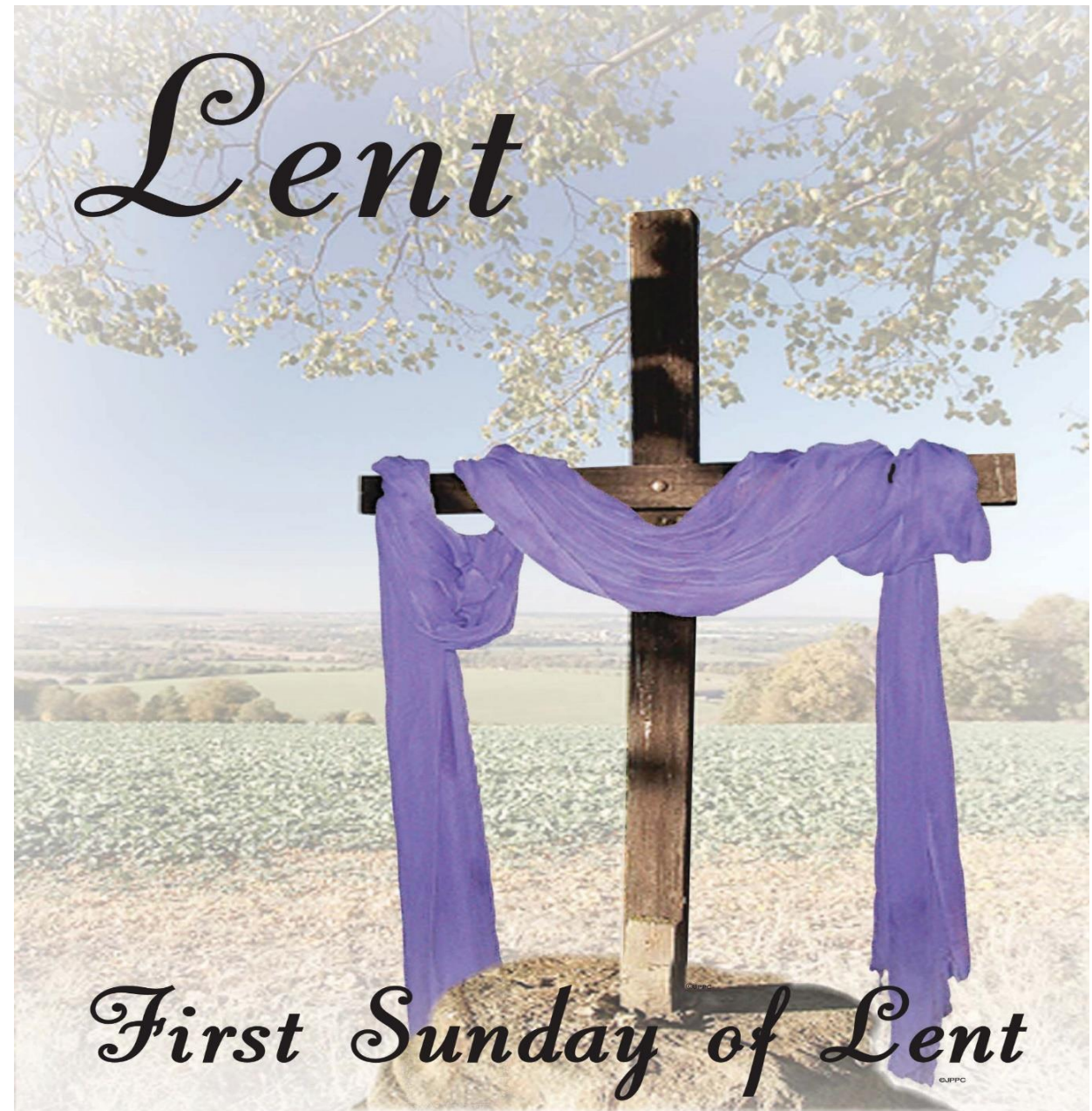
HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

GOOD NEWS! God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) that have hurt God and others. Apologize to God, turn away from harmful behavior, and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer, Redeemer (Savior), and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (Christian).

HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor or come forward at a congregation meeting. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.

OUR MISSION – We love God and we love people by sharing the Good News of God's forgiving, renewing love in Jesus Christ by word and deed to improve the lives of neighbors. West Side Baptist Church is an independent, autonomous Christian church partnering for mission support with like-minded people of faith in our City, County, State, Nation, and World.



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