



By Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Sunday, March 9 , 2025

First Sunday of Lent

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of **BELLA VISTA**

1880 Forest Hills Blvd.
Bella Vista, Arkansas 72715

(479) 855-2390 www.pcbv.org
E-mail: pcbvoffice@pcbv.org

LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

LITURGIST

Gail Cowdin

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Bud Clark

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Sandy Andrews

Chancel Choir

Sandy Bachelder, Betty Bennett, Arlene Biebesheimer, Jerry Biebesheimer, Marcia Beard,
Bud Clark, Christy Clark, Dick Francis, Gail Knudsen, Sharry McGuire,
Peggy McMenus, Jean Nichols, Mary Nimis-Tysk, David Riter, Gary Harris,
Edie Harris, Martha Stout, Karen Watson

Bell Choir

Arlene Beibesheimer, Gail Cowdin, Rosie Floyd, Gail Knudsen, Florence Riter,
Michelle Schall, Cathie Whittenberger, Sharon Warner, Karen Watson, Fran Zimmerman

WELCOME DESK

Mack Bean

HEAD USHER

Buddy Needham

USHERS/GREETERS

Dan Dovell, Dan Johnson, Buddy Needham, Nancy Ortman, Frank Taylor

COFFEE HOSTS

Shepherd Group 2
Barry & Maura Owen

AUDIO/VISUAL

Tom Hackleman,
Steve Little, Jim Watson

A SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

An asterisk () indicates that those who are able may stand;
Bold type — please respond in unison.*

WE GATHER AND PREPARE OUR HEARTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE *“Precious Lord Take My Hand”* Arr. Fred Bock

CALL TO WORSHIP

We cultivate the earth—

When we till the ground and lay new seeds.

We cultivate safe space—

When we pay attention to what others need.

We cultivate worship—

When we come together, our hearts on our sleeves.

In this worship, may we be honest and present;

May we be faithful and gracious.

For the God of the soil, who is the God of our hearts, is near.

Let us worship Holy God.

***HYMN #838** *“Standing on the Promises”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Scripture says, “No one who believes in Christ will be put to shame.”

Therefore, we do not approach God with shame but with life-giving expectation grounded in our trust of God. For when we confess with our mouth and trust in our heart, we will find healing for ourselves and for the world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we are works in progress.

In spaces where we could cultivate belonging, we build up walls.

In spaces where we could cultivate compassion, we insist on perfection and pressure ourselves to achieve the impossible.

In spaces where we could let go of anger, we keep score like it's our job and insist on an "eye for an eye" justice.

So today we pray—

Remind us how to cultivate hope, love, and justice.

Remind us how to let go of fear, perfection, and hatred.

Forgive us. Guide us. Heal us.

Gratefully we pray,

Amen.

(Moment of silence for personal confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (based on Romans 10)

Everyone. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Having called upon the wide arms of our gracious God, know that you are forgiven. With joy, may we amplify God's grace into the whole world. Amen.

THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(Please take this opportunity to "pass the peace" to those around you.)

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

WE ENCOUNTER THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Author and source of our lives and of our redeemer, Jesus Christ, we know what is written can be used for evil or for good. Open our hearts to your Spirit that the words read and proclaimed would go beyond ink, paper, digital images and sound. Despite the imperfect mediums, may this Scripture be the spiritual imparting of your deepest desires for the world into our hearts.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

26 “When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand

an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 91:1-2 & 9-16

¹ You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
Who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

² **will say to the Lord,**

“My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”

⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,

¹⁰ **no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.**

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

¹² **On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**

¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

¹⁴ **Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.**

¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them.

¹⁶ **With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.**

ANTHEM

“In My Heart there Rings a Melody”

Patti Drennan

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-13

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ” ⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” ⁹ Then the devil^[c] led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ” ¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

SERMON

“Cultivating Devotion; Letting Go of Distractions”

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***HYMN #1**

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Theological Declaration of Barmen)

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole-body [is] joined and knit together” (Ephesians 4:15-16).

The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance. We reject the false doctrine, as though the church were permitted to abandon the form of its message and order to its own pleasure or to changes in prevailing ideological and political convictions.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please fill out a prayer card or speak directly into the microphone

THE LORD’S 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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In our deliverance and abundance, we are asked to use the first fruits of our labor to build the kin-dom. Let us be prayerful about how we may give our bounty to our benevolent God.

OFFERTORY *“Think About His Love with Jesus Loves Me”*

Arr: Tom Fettke

***DOXOLOGY #606** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, You speak of a promised day—a promised day where swords will be beaten into plowshares and justice will roll down like a mighty stream. So we offer you these gifts in hopes that they might help bring about that day. Use us and use these gifts for your good; and as you do, cultivate in us more generous hearts.

Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO MINISTER

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN #41** *“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”*

***CHARGE AND BLESSINGS**

***GOING FORTH** *“Go Now in Peace”*

***POSTLUDE** *“How Majestic is Your Name”* Arr: Mark Hayes



Weekly Vista

WELCOME!

We hope you will find your time of worship with us to be very meaningful. We are an open faith community.

Please visit www.pcbv.org, or call the Church Office at 855-2390 if you would like to learn more about us and inquire about membership.

OFFICE HOURS

MON- THURS:
9 am to 3 pm
FRIDAY: CLOSED

For pastoral emergencies, please call or text Pastor Judi at 479-403-9082.

Pastor's day off is Friday, she will return calls later. To schedule an in-person appointment, please email her at jmcmillan@pcbv.org stating your need.

Deacons on Call for March:
Mary Hackleman
Susan Foster

03/02/2025 Attendance:
Members/Friends: 93 Guests: 2
Online: 15



You are invited to refreshments and a time of

Sugar-free cookies will no longer be supplied, unless the Shepherd group for that week chooses to do so.

Thank you responses were received by Missions Spiritual Life from the following Ferncliff \$500.00 quarterly contribution, United Campus Ministry \$900.00 for the contributions end of 2024, and Lyon College \$500.00 for quarterly scholarship contribution.

Please consider signing up to be an Usher or Greeter for a month this year. It's a great way to meet people and say "Hi" to those you don't always get to say "Hi" to.

BIRTHDAYS

March 11 Christy Clark

March 11 Bill Walters

March 12 Ron Burroughs

March 15 Mary Alice Adams

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 9

9am Christian Ed Class
10am Worship
11am-12pm Fellowship Time (F/H)

Monday, March 10

1-2pm—Welcome Center Design Meeting

Tuesday, March 11

8am—2pm—PEO Chpt BR Meeting (F/H)
4:40-5:50pm—Taize Music (Sanctuary)
5-6pm—Lenton Soup Supper (F/H)
5:30pm—6:30pm Men's AA (A)

Wednesday, March 12

10:30-11:30am Staff Meeting (A)
5:00pm Bell Choir
6:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 13

1-2pm—PW Meeting (F/H)
2-3pm—Book Group (F/H)

Friday, March 14

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
1-3pm—Knitting for Peace

Saturday, March 15

9am—Roadside Pickup

Sunday, March 16

9am Christian Ed Class
10am Worship
11am-12pm Fellowship Time (F/H)

Every Tuesday during Lent at 4:40pm, please join us for Taize Music in the Sanctuary.



Reminder, there is a sign up sheet for the first soup Supper on March 11th, in Connector Hallway. There will be one for every week.

Please sign up so we know how many to prepare for. Thank you.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CALENDARS

The memorial for John Foss has been rescheduled for April 26th at 2pm.

Events for Gene McKay

Dinner- Friday June 6th - 4:00 - 8:00pm Open house at BVT A Rec hall [2 Cora Circle, Bella Vista] for family, friends and neighbors. Picnic style meal provided (details on how to RSVP will be provided later.

Memorial Service—Saturday June 7th - 1:00pm at BV Presbyterian Church.

While we hope viewers develop their own interpretations of the art we create, we offer these artist statements as theological reflections on our process creating these works. You are welcome to share these artist statements in worship bulletins, church newsletters, online, etc., and you may also incorporate them into sermons or worship liturgy (with credit).



RESIST

BY LISLE GWYNN GARRITY

INSPIRED BY LUKE 4:1-13 | CHARCOAL & ACRYLIC PAINT ON PAPER

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

While in the wilderness, what does Jesus resist? The temptation to provide only for himself instead of living into God's abundant manna. The temptation to obtain unlimited power and control. The temptation to coerce faith or prove God's power. The temptation to rule above the earth instead of from within it.

In his own 40-day Lent, Jesus is reformed and readied for his ministry, one defined by humility, justice, and compassion. I imagine he had to let go of ego and self-serving desires in order

to cultivate a leadership ethic that upends structures of power and oppression. He had to let go of personal profit in order to cultivate inner strength.

In this image, a flash of red, symbolizing evil and temptation, snakes around Jesus' head, as if to suffocate him. But a halo of gold, emanating from his steadfast expression, protects him from evil's destruction.

— LISLE GWYNN GARRITY