

**Welcome and Announcements:** February 28, 2021

Lenten Speaker Series TODAY at 11 a.m. on Zoom. Noah Morgan and Addison Schmidt are the speakers.

Meeting ID: 831 6464 3603 Passcode: 736553

Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. – Facebook Live – “Letting Go for Lent” – and the devotional will also be emailed out in written form.

**GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD**

**Prelude:** *\*I Come to Thee* – Franklin Ritter

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**Opening Prayer:**

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we pray for the church to be your blessing. Everywhere in the world, may we demonstrate your love, and work for your justice. May the faithful be kind to those who doubt, and the brave stand up for abuses of power. May we offer compassionate correction and sympathetic tears. May we honor the rhythms of your sacred calendar and allow ourselves and others time for rest and renewal. May we open our ears to listen to the enthusiasm of the young and the wisdom of the old; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:** *Fight the Good Fight*

1. Fight the good fight with all thy might;  
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right;  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
Thy joy and crown eternally.

2. Run the straight race through God’s good grace,  
Lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ’s face;  
Life with its way before us lies,  
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

*Fight the Good Fight*, as in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell, 1863, alt. Music: John Hatton (d. 1793). Used by permission. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

## **GOD'S WORD**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

#### **Scripture:**

#### **Genesis 17:1-5**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

#### **Romans 4:13-25**

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup> Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup> Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**Sermon:** Father Abraham

Rev. Kerra Becker English

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **Prayer of the People and 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.

## Offering

### Response: *Amazing Grace*

*Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!*

*I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.*

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*, as in the Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: John Newton, 1779. Music, *Virginia Harmony*, 1831. Used by permission. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

## **SENDING US OUT TO BE GOD'S WORD IN THE WORLD**

### Closing Hymn: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me, my master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.

2. O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*, as in The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: John Ernest, 1868. Music: Arthur Henry Mann, 1881. Used by permission. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

## Charge and Benediction

### Postlude: *\*Be Thou Exalted* – Edward H. Wetherill

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