

INVITATION... Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us. Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given. Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news. Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people. Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life. Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us. Lent calls us to journey with God. Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE - ALL ARE WELCOME HERE... No matter your circumstances, your background, or your reason for being here, you are welcome. We believe the church is the perfect place for imperfect people! If you are looking for a church family and home, we invite you to join us each Sunday morning.

OUR MISSION... "We are a dedicated community of believers that endeavors to demonstrate God's love to the world in which we live and serve."

WE ARE THREE CHURCHES WITH ONE CONGREGATION... we are all brothers and sisters together in Christ; we worship together every Sunday: first and third Sundays at Arvon, second and fourth at Fork Union and fifth Sundays at Trinity

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH... will meet at 1:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month in Fork Union. All members and friends are invited.

TWO CENTS A MEAL... is part of the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program. Please use the donations box in the entry way.

FUN & FLEX ...will meet at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, February 14th at Arvon, Choir Rehearsal at 7:00

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH... we share in our Fabulous Fellowship Breakfast[®] at 9:30 am in the Arvon Fellowship Hall! Join us next month...

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING... following Worship, Sunday, March 11, Fork Union Presbyterian Church

COMING UP!

Soup and Scripture – Thursdays, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22 + 3/29 Maundy Thursday/Communion (6:30pm) – Fork Union. Palm Sunday, 3/25 – Fork Union, Good Friday, 3/30 (7:00pm) – Trinity, Easter – 4/1 - Arvon

Birthdays and Anniversaries

February 18th: Eunice Chambers

February 24th: Janet Shelton

February 19th: Hamden (Buttons)

February 26th: Walter Shiflet

Seay

WELCOME



Arvon Presbyterian Church

February 18th 2018

First Sunday of Lent

The Gathering

Ringling of the steeple bell, calling the faithful to worship

Replenishing the baptismal font, reminding us we are all God's children

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Greeting One Another and Life of the Parish

The Processional: Lighting of the Candles and Entry of God's Word

▲ **Our Invitation: The Beginning of the Worship Service**

*Lord, who throughout these forty days; For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins And close by Thee to stay..*

Call to Worship – Psalm 25:1-10 (Unison)

All: I offer my life to you, LORD. My God, I trust you. Please don't let me be put to shame! Don't let my enemies rejoice over me! For that matter, don't let anyone who hopes in you be put to shame; instead, let those who are treacherous without excuse be put to shame. Make your ways known to me, LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long. LORD, remember your compassion and faithful love—they are forever! But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing. Remember me only according to your faithful love for the sake of your goodness, LORD.

Leader: Come, let us worship our God!

Opening Prayer

▲ **Hymn of Praise: # 84 – In the Cross of Christ I Glory 1, 2, and 4**

▼ **Prayer of Confession – from Psalm 51 (Responsive)**

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.

People: Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.

Leader: Against you, you alone, have we sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

People: Indeed, we were born guilty, sinners when our mothers conceived us. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom in our secret hearts.

Leader: Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow. Let us hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.

People: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Do not cast us away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit...

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness: Psalm 51:15-17

▲ **Gloria Patri**

The Word

▼ **First Scripture Reading – The Old Testament: Genesis 9:8-17**

Special Music – Choir – “What Wondrous Love Is This”

Second Scripture Reading – The Epistle: 1 Peter 3:18-22

▲ **Hymn of Reflection: # 82 – O Lamb of God Most Holy**

▼ **The Word Read – The Gospel: Mark 1:9-15**

The Word Proclaimed: “The rustling of dove's wings... “

Our Response to the Word

Affirmation of Faith – Belgic Confession - Article 14: The Creation and Fall of Humanity

Moreover, all the light in us is turned to darkness, as the Scripture teaches us: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Here John calls the human race "darkness." Therefore we reject everything taught to the contrary concerning human free will, since humans are nothing but the slaves of sin and cannot do a thing unless it is given them from heaven.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (“debts and debtors”)

Our Offering to God

▲ **Song of Praise: The Doxology (# 592) & Prayer of Dedication**

▼ **The Lenten Wreath (See Insert)**

The Sending

▲ **Charge and Blessing**

▲ **Choral Response (# 586)**

▲ **Extinguishing of the Candles and the Recessional into the World**

Lenten Candle Liturgy 2018

Meditation for the First Sunday of Lent – February 18 – Arvon

Pastor:

During this time of Lenten preparation, we think of those who turned away from the light of Jesus. And we remember that we, too, turn away. Jesus healed many who were sick in mind, body, or spirit. Only a few returned to give thanks. We realize that we have taken the gifts of God for granted . . . that our lives have lacked gratitude. Our lack of gratitude shields the light of Christ from us and others. We extinguish the first candle, confessing our own failure to give thanks to God.

Reader:

During Lent, we remember the events that led Jesus to his crucifixion. He had come into the world to bring hope and light, but at every turn there were those who sought to extinguish that light.

He offered healing and wisdom, yet his gifts were often rejected by those filled with hatred and fear.

We read in the fourth chapter of the Gospel of Luke: Jesus went to his hometown, Nazareth, and on the Sabbath, he went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read the Scriptures and was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and read, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people."

Jesus rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. All the people in the synagogue had their eyes fixed upon him, as he said to them, "This passage of scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read."

When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were filled with anger. They rose up, dragged Jesus out of town and took him to the top of the hill on which their town was built. They meant to throw him over the cliff but he walked through the middle of the crowd and went on his way.

Jesus had said, "A prophet is never welcomed in his hometown."

A little of the light which had come into the world was snuffed out by the people who watched Jesus grow up.

(Extinguish one of the purple candles.)

Pastor: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, give us strength and courage to make the changes that are needed in our lives. Open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.

Lenten Soup & Scripture – for the Fork Union community at large!

Thursdays: 3/8 – 3/29

Soup: 6:30 pm – Study 7:00 pm

Fork Union Presbyterian Church

The Purple Church – a study in Paul's letter
to the Romans



Paul wrote to unify a church in divided
times...

What does he say to us today?