#### Homecrest Presbyterian Church

Worship of the Lord's Day February 21st, 2016

2nd Sunday in Lent



"Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them. So shall your descendants be." Genesis 15:5

## <u>Gathering Around the WORD</u> Call To Worship

(Based on Psalm 27)

The psalmist sings,
One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord all the
days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to
inquire in God's temple.

Sisters and Brothers, God is good, and in love and mercy greets us here

#### Gathering Hymn #35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

#### Gathering Hymn #35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Gathering Hymn #35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.

### <u>Gathering Around the WORD</u> Call to Confession

The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear? With humble hearts, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

## Gathering Around the WORD Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Merciful God, you have made us citizens of heaven, but we confess that we have set our minds on earthly things. We have let our desire for security restrain our commitment to serve the poor. We have let our fear of danger curb our obligation to love our enemies. We have let our love of things dull our generosity to the needy. We have let our craving for public status prevent our honesty about hidden sins. Yet, you know the desires of our heart and nothing is hidden from you. Thanks be to God, Amen.

### Gathering Around the WORD Declaration of Forgiveness

God, our light and our salvation, does not forsake us or leave us with our sin. In Christ, we are forgiven and offered the gift of healing repentance. *Thanks be to God, Amen.* 



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

## Gathering Around the WORD Passing of the Peace of Christ

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

(I John 4:7-8)



# Proclaiming the WORD Message to the Youth/ Prayer of Illumination

### Proclaiming the WORD Scripture Reading

(Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18)

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." 4 But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your

# Proclaiming the WORD Scripture Reading (Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18)

<sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be. " 6 And Abram believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said to Abram, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." 8 But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"

# Proclaiming the WORD Scripture Reading (Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18)

<sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

## Proclaiming the WORD Scripture Reading (Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18)

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.

## Proclaiming the WORD Scripture Reading (Philippians 3:17-4:1)

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. 18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. 19 Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Proclaiming the WORD Scripture Reading (Philippians 3:17-4:1)

<sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

## Proclaiming the WORD Beyond the Rising Stars

(Genesis 15:1-12 and Philippians 3:17-4:1)

# 49 "The God of Abraham Praise"

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above, the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love! The Lord, the great I am, by earth and heaven confessed, we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

# 49 "The God of Abraham Praise"

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will. In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still. Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand, deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

# 49 "The God of Abraham Praise"

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest, a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest. There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound, and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

# 49 "The God of Abraham Praise"

You have eternal life implanted in the soul; your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll. We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name: the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

### Responding to the WORD Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Creator, who made me and all things, who set me on my path in this world.

I believe in God the Savior,
who is one with the Creator,
who rescued me and all creation
from the depredations of our violations
against God and creation.

This man, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ,
walked a path through this world,
taking on human form having been born of a woman
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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#### Responding to the WORD

#### Affirmation of Faith

He lived and worked in this world among people just like me. He walked God's path to death on a cross, and rose from the dead to open our pathway to eternal life.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, my counselor and guide, who is one with the Creator and the Christ, who through the body and blood of Jesus brings me into communion with all people, past, present and future; who calls me to walk a sacred way of life through this world, caring for creation and the people I meet on the way, loving them, helping them, welcoming them without prejudice, being God's hands and feet in the world.

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# Bearing and Following the WORD into the World Announcements & Sharing of Joys and Concerns

- We will continue our regular afternoon Bible Study group Today. We will be studying a seven-part series on the Seven Days of Glory: Holy Week in preparation of the coming Lenten Season. Please join us downstairs at 12:30 in the basement. All are welcomed.
- The Women's Group will be meeting over at the Manse (2048 E 14th Street) every Wednesday evening @ 7:30pm. They are currently studying the book of Genesis. They will also be meeting every other Sunday morning before service at 9:30am over at the Manse for prayers and fellowship. For more information, please contact Margaret Lesman or Cara Chin.

# Bearing and Following the WORD into the World Announcements & Sharing of Joys and Concerns

#### Upcoming Dates:

<b>2/28, 3/6,</b> 3	3/13 Lenten Breakfast
3/6	Women's Day Sunday
	with Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Grace May
3/19	St. Patrick's Day Dinner
3/20	Palm Sunday after Church –
	Distribution of Palm Crosses
	at St. Joachim & Anne Nursing Home
3/25	Good Friday Service
3/27	Easter Sunday

# Bearing and Following the WORD into the World Announcements & Sharing of Joys and Concerns

NYC Presbytery's Leadership Development Day will be held on Saturday, 2/17 8:30am-3:30pm at Brick Presbyterian
 Church. The cost of registration, including breakfast and lunch is only \$10. This is not only for church officers but for any members as well.

# Bearing and Following the WORD into the World Prayer of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven.

Halloweth be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts; as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptations, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory forever.

Amen.

# Bearing and Following the WORD into the World Offering of our Gifts and our Lives Special Music: # 292 "As the Wind Song"

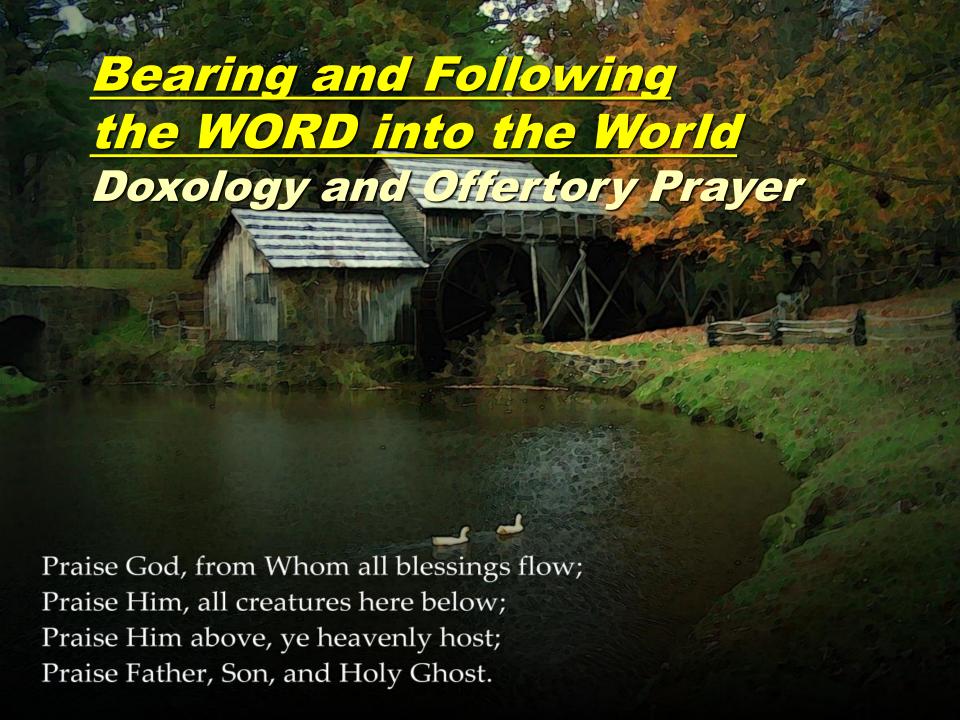
#### Let's Honor The Lord With Our Giving

"Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly.

And whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

2 Corinthians 9:6





#### Sending Hymn

#### # 37 "Let All Things Now Living"

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

#### Sending Hymn

# 37 "Let All Things Now Living"

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine. We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration, a song let us raise, till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

# Bearing and Following the WORD into the World The Charge and Benediction



#### Bearing and Following the WORD into the World Benediction Response

#140 "Shalom, Chavarim! Farewell, Good Friends"

Shalom, Good friends!
Shalom, Good friends!
Shalom, Shalom!
Till we meet again, till we meet again,
Shalom, Shalom.

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