

GATHERING OF OUR HEARTS

Rev. Jana Creighton and Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer

Leader: Let all the inhabitants of the earth tremble, for the Lord is near!

People: Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

Leader: The night of darkness is upon us - we await in fear.

People: Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

Leader: Spare your people, O Lord. Heal and prepare us for service.

People: Let your love and healing mercies flood through us, Lord. AMEN.

HYMN

Rock of Ages

Toplady/Hastings

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed;
Be of sin the double cure; thou must save, and thou alone.**

**Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring' simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash Me Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgement throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Just last Sunday we experienced such joy! We were on the mountain top with Jesus, witnessing his conversation with Moses and Elijah. Now we have been cast into the darkness. And this darkness is deeper than night - it is the darkness of the unknown. Tonight we will hear words that will chill our spirits. We will receive the mark of the ashes and be reminded of the sacrifice and commitment we are about to make for the journey. Forgive us for our fears and hesitancy, Lord. Heal our spirits. Enable us to enter into this time of learning and testing with courage and trust. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN

Just As I Am

Elliott/Bradbury

**Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou biddest me come to thee, Oh Lamb of God, I Come; I Come!**

SCRIPTURE

John 8:1-11

Rev. Jana Creighton

MESSAGE

Even Here: Rock Bottom

Rev. Jana Creighton

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer

Tonight we receive the smudges of ashes. We come forward and are marked as disciples, as those who have been called, cleansed, forgiven, and healed. We do not step foot on this journey lightly - for it will not be easy. There will be times of great joy and wonder; and there will be times of confusion and fear. But through all of this, God is with us, guiding, comforting, leading us. We have raised in prayer names of those we love who need your healing mercies, O Lord. We have lifted up situations of pain, loneliness in confidence of your amazing grace. Though the night is dark, and there is much darkness in the world, we will place our trust in your Son, whom you have blessed and given to us. Help us to follow in His steps and place our trust in Him as we enter this Lenten journey; for it is in His name that we pray. AMEN.

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.

LITANY

Rev. Jana Creighton, Rev. Dan Loffredo, Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer

Leader: Tonight we have heard the words of instruction, to pray in sincerity, to give of ourselves and our substance for the benefit of others and not for our own recognition, to reach out in service expecting no reward, to face honestly who we are. We all have instances in our lives that bring us sorrow, shame, sadness. We all feel unworthy of following Christ into the Lenten journey. But Jesus has proclaimed us ready. He has offered to us the path of Light and hope.

Reader 1: I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly. I have given to you treasures, which are not to be collected, stored, and locked up - they are gifts to be used for others, for hope, healing, restoration.

Reader 2: Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew right and wholesome spirits within us. Restore us to the joy of your salvation, for it is in you that we place our hope.

Leader: Come, now to the place where you will receive the mark of forgiveness and discipleship. Enter the journey which will lead to your healing and hope. Come, for all is ready.

Leader: God so loved God's world, that the Son was sent to it, that healing and hope may be found. He is the Light of the World and in His Name, you have received the mark of discipleship. Lord, bless these people, who have received this mark. Heal and restore them. Help them to become true disciples, serving you all their days. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN

MARKING OF THE ASHES

Remember, you are from dust, and to dust you will return.

SACRAMENTAL INVITATION

Sacraments are embodiments of the good news of God's Word, so today we are to dip our hands into the baptismal water and remember that while we may be dust, we are baptized dust. We are each so precious to God that our Lord has been broken so that we might know the wholeness of eternal life. He was baptized with the baptism of death, drinking to the empty dregs the cup God placed before him, so that we might know life in all its fullness.

Remember your baptism. **You are marked as Christ's own forever.**

Hymn

There's a Wideness In God's Mercy

Faber/Rontgen

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failing have such kindly judgement given.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word,
And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.**

BENEDICTION

Though the night is dark, the Light of the world goes before you. God guides your steps and surrounds your life. Go in peace, ready to serve the One who has always loved you. AMEN.

Even Here Lenten Sermon Series

In this past year, loving our neighbor has meant giving up many things we love. Even harder, loving our neighbor has meant giving up many social interactions that give us joy. We have missed milestones in our loved ones' lives, and we have celebrated our own milestones alone. We've tried to build a semblance of normal by cobbling together Facebook Live and Zoom worship services and anniversary parties, but the zoom coffee hour just isn't the same: we aren't surrounded by laughter, we cannot hug each other, and it's been a year since I've had a homemade cookie.

We crave things we never thought we would miss: the story that we've heard (or told) over and over again, the person who whispers loudly during worship, the squeak of the pew, and I have to admit, I even miss the taste of weak decaf coffee.

Lonely is a terrible place to be. And here we are, alone in the Lenten valley of loneliness. This has not been easy. To tell the truth, it's been excruciating. And even here, in the Lenten valley of loneliness, you have become brave, and kind, and wise.

Even here, we are learning to be better people, a better community.
Even here, where everything is changing, we have opportunities to change, too.
Even here, you are planting seeds that will sprout one day.
Even here.

LENTEN CALENDAR

| | |
|--|---|
| Every Wednesday, February 24, 2021 to March 31, 2021 at 7:00 pm | Join Pastor Jana via Zoom for a Lenten Devotional time every Wednesday evening during Lent! |
| Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 7:00 pm | Zoom worship (have communion elements ready) |
| Good Friday, April 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm | Community Worship Service via Youtube |
| Easter, April 4, 2021 at 11:00 am | Zoom Easter Worship |

Please look at future bulletins and newsletters for additional Easter info coming soon

If you need a Bible please contact the church office or one of the Pastors



In our continued prayers...

Edith Blanchett Nan Foster
Linda Floyd Scott Wilhide
Daniel and Elizabeth Turk
John Anderson

Ed Keelen Al Charles
Joe Gause SOPC Covid Task Force
Iglesia Presbiteriana de Nueva Paz

Please join us on Wednesdays at Noon via Zoom for our Prayer Meeting.

Contact information for Pastor Jana Creighton:

For church business and pastoral needs:

Office: 803-772-1761

Email: jana@sopc.net

Contact information for Parish associate and youth minister Dan Loffredo:

For youth needs:

Cell: 850-736-3621

Email: dannyloffredo@hotmail.com

Contact for parish associate Barry Shatzer: For pastoral needs:

Home: 803-661-8257 (preferred); Cell: 803-381-4184

Email: jbssc@yahoo.com

This Week at SOPC

Sunday

Adult Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

[https://zoom.us/j/508111743?](https://zoom.us/j/508111743?pwd=WUpnelhCV2ICTTBKRTczY3I0YU8yZz09)

[pwd=WUpnelhCV2ICTTBKRTczY3I0YU8yZz09](https://zoom.us/j/508111743?pwd=WUpnelhCV2ICTTBKRTczY3I0YU8yZz09)

Meeting ID: 508 111 743 Password: 046739

By Phone: 1(646)558-8656 508111743 #

Youth Check-In at 10:00 a.m.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85778663914?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85778663914?pwd=dDVYmzRnRlIQmF3cHBiMHRLbFVDdz09)

[pwd=dDVYmzRnRlIQmF3cHBiMHRLbFVDdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85778663914?pwd=dDVYmzRnRlIQmF3cHBiMHRLbFVDdz09)

Meeting ID: 857 7866 3914 Passcode: 847828

Sunday Service at 11:00 a.m.

[https://zoom.us/j/743754044?](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWIHWWJWOFR4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09)

[pwd=bWIHWWJWOFR4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWIHWWJWOFR4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09)

Meeting ID: 743 754 044 Password: 072863

By Phone: 1(646)558-8656 743754044 #

Children's Check-In and Sunday School at 1:30 p.m.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573328620?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573328620?pwd=dkVUQWZMaUx5QitMZ1RLYUdCWml0dz09)
[pwd=dkVUQWZMaUx5QitMZ1RLYUdCWml0dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573328620?pwd=dkVUQWZMaUx5QitMZ1RLYUdCWml0dz09)

Meeting ID: 845 7332 8620 Password: 237447

Wednesday

Lunch & Prayer: Wednesday at Noon

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89705113395?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89705113395?pwd=d3JZSTROa3RFVtIvd0U3WnZwNmhnZz09)

[pwd=d3JZSTROa3RFVtIvd0U3WnZwNmhnZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89705113395?pwd=d3JZSTROa3RFVtIvd0U3WnZwNmhnZz09)

Meeting ID: 897 0511 3395 Password: 300498

By Phone: 1(301)715-8592 89705113395#

Friday

Lanterns: Fridays at 7:30 a.m.

<https://meet.google.com/gei-nbcw-upo>