



## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

*"Walking with Jesus, sharing Christ along the way"*

Welcome to Wayside! It is good to have new and returning friends in the congregation for this hour of worship. A special welcome is extended to the Rev. Charlie Gross as our pulpit Supply while Pastor Steve is on Study Leave this week. If interested in learning more about Wayside's ministry, inquire about our next Seeker Class. Meanwhile, check our website for an introduction to our congregational life and mission outreach. We'd welcome your partnership! Shalom.

*\*Please stand as able in body or spirit.*

### Greeting / Passing the Peace of Christ / Ways to Connect

**Prelude** *Deb Konupka, Accompanist*

**Lighting of the Worship & Peace Candles - Acolyte**

**Responsive Call to Worship** *Tom McMahan, Liturgist*

Leader: On these days of our Lenten journey,

**People: Christ goes with us side by side, loving us.**

Leader: While we gather here for worship,

**People: May our lives be focused on God's ever-present peace and love.**

Leader: As we sing, pray and listen,

**People: May God's Spirit of love burst forth within us.**

Leader: And may this time of worship,

**People: Be for us a constant guide and reminder.**

Leader: Now let us sing and worship with energy, exuberance and joy,

**People: As we respond to God's love in Jesus Christ.**

**\*Hymn 66** To God Be the Glory

**Unison Prayer of Confession** *Liturgist*

**Forgive us, O God, if we have preferred the old to the new, half-life to full life, and our own achievements to your gifts of life and love. Forgive us if we have ignored Jesus' teachings, slighted his gracious love and tried to discover the meaning of our life apart from our Teacher. Forgive us if we have run away from the difficult decisions of life, evading the cross and missing the mark.**

**Forgive us if we have failed to see the signs of your precious presence in our common life. Forgive us if we have refused to work in cooperation with your**

**loving Spirit.**

**Have mercy on us, O God, and enable us to lay hold of the life that is life indeed, in your self-giving love. Restore to us the joy of our salvation and uphold us with your gracious Spirit.**

**Accept us, O God, and deliver us from all our sin, through Jesus, our Christ. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

*Rev. Charlie Gross*

**Prayer Table for Giving & Lighting Candles / Offertory**

*Digital gifts may be indicated by tapping the plate with a phone/hand.*

**Prayer for Illumination**



**Scripture Readings** Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-17 *Rev. Charlie Gross*

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." <sup>4</sup>So Abram left, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." <sup>3</sup>In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." <sup>4</sup>"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup>You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. <sup>10</sup>"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup>I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that everyone who believes in him may have