



Corbin Presbyterian Church

February 28, 2021
2nd Sunday in Lent

In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbatation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

This theme provides a clear invitation in a time when much is unclear. Even if worshipping apart, we come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we will continue to be community to one another—especially when it's hard—by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us through Jesus Christ. The sub-theme, "A Lenten Refrain," speaks to the ways God can make music of our lives. "Refrain" also reminds us that Lent is a season of abstaining from certain practices in order to take on new rhythms and habits.

In this season, we need rituals—both old and new—to remember and be transformed. Embodied practice builds muscle memory. We need the days of Lent because this season shapes us into more faithful disciples. This Lent, again and again, we bring all of who we are to God and trust that God will meet us, time and again along the way until "an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!" (hymn: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days)

Gathering Around the Word

Prelude

O Rest In The Lord

Felix Mendelssohn
1809-1847

Preparing for Worship

This week's theme is *Again & Again, We are Called to Listen*. Like the disciples, we are often stuck in the pattern of messing up over and over again. We cling to power, we climb the ladder, we memorialize and commercialize Christ's teachings rather than embodying them. However, we can't be trapped by shame, guilt, ignorance, or inaction. Humility is required for transformation. Again and again, we are called to listen — to God and to others. As we prepare to worship, let us pray:

*Again and again—we are invited in.
Again and again—God meets us.
We are here. God is here.
This space is holy ground.*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Prayer of the Day

Hymn #231

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

SUO GAN

*Christ is risen while earth slumbers; Christ has risen where hope died,
As he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
Let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!*

*Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.*

*Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed and mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:
Evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**O God, you spoke at Jesus' baptism, saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"
We confess that we have not listened well.
Listening God, take what is closed in us and open it.
Take what is distracted in us and settle it.
Take what is hurting in us and hold it.
Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you.
For we are like Peter, O God.
We argue what we do not know. We fear what we cannot see.
And we almost always speak sooner than we listen.
So open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us.
We long to hear you more clearly.
We long to know you more fully.
With hope we pray, and with gratitude we confess. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Mark 8:31-9:8

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” ⁹ ¹ And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

Sermon

Again & Again, We Are Called to Listen

The Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed (traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

About the Prayer Display: This Lent, you are invited to come to God in prayer again and again, adding your prayers to those of our larger community, using an ampersand. Used here, the ampersand represents God's holy “and.” When we feel helpless and hopeless, God's holy “and” encourages us to lift up our weary eyes to search for more. In a culture overrun by extremes, either/or thinking, and polarizing ideas, this holy & reminds us that we are always more—that there is always more. We are broken & beautiful. Joy & grief can co-exist. Oppression persists & God is guiding us closer to liberation and wholeness. This Lent, let us practice the power of “and”—especially when “again?!” feels like our never-ending cry of lament. Within the ampersand, our prayers are held together and transformed into beauty.

Add Your Prayers: You are invited to add your prayers to the display. Below are several types of prayer. Consider the type of prayer you need at the moment—or offer a prayer of each kind. You are invited to offer as many prayers as you need throughout this Lenten season. On an ampersand symbol, use the marker to write a word or phrase to represent your prayer to God. If you are worshiping with us by Zoom, you may type a prayer into the chat box and it will be added, or you may call the church office or send it to churchoffice@corbinpres.org. All of our prayers will be gathered and added.

Again and again, God hears our prayers. God hears our cries. God knows us and sees us—fully. Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF SUPPLICATION are earnest petitions to God for healing, peace, wholeness, or hope.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING express gratitude and joy.

PRAYERS OF LAMENT offer our grief, weariness, and despair to God—openly & honestly.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION name our part in brokenness and sin.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION express our prayers for the needs of others.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION display our deep reverence for all that is holy.

...we offer these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught to pray saying, ***Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 & Dedication

Offering plates will not be passed in the sanctuary this morning. There are offering envelopes and a plate on the table just outside the sanctuary doors where you may place your offering before you leave. All worshippers, here or at home, may send offerings to Corbin Presbyterian Church, 601 Master St., Corbin, KY. 40701.

Following the Word into the World

Hymn

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

HYFRYDOL

*We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God's grace.*

*Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.*

Light breaks through our clouds and shadows; splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word;

Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.

Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the law and prophets meet:

Christ, with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline,

we like Peter find it tempting to remain and build a shrine.

But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess,

that our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

Charge & Benediction

Postlude

Rondeau

J.C. Chambonnières
1602-1672

For Reflection on Today's Text & Theme from Mark 8:31-9:8

"If there is one truth in my life
That unfolds again and again,
It is the need to listen.

For again and again, I will try,
 with good intentions,
To act and walk with love.
But again and again, I will make mistakes.
Again and again, I will say the wrong thing.

Again and again, they will call me Peter,
And again and again, they will be right.

So again and again,
I will pray for a truth that ricochets,
For ears that will listen,
And for space to hold truth."

From *Truth that Ricochets*, by Rev. Sarah Are



Transfiguration

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Mark 8:31-9:8

Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper

I'm not a good listener. In the midst of our national reckoning around structural racism and white supremacy in the U.S., I've found that I've done a terrible job listening to my Black and Brown siblings. I constantly have to resist the urge to explain myself, to be seen as good and antiracist. I try saying all the right things, I do performative acts of allyship, and quite honestly, I need to be quiet and listen. I need to be ready to accept criticism, and instead of trying to prove anything, I need to gain awareness of my internalized biases and learned racist tendencies and do the difficult work of unlearning them in every moment. "Get behind me, Satan" (Mark 8:33).

Here we find Peter stepping in and saying all the right things, rejecting the notion that Christ must suffer and die; but in the end, he's not listening to Jesus. It seems Peter's rejection of this

narrative reflects his fear of the suffering he also might face in following Christ. "Let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34).

Six days later, the disciples are called to listen once again. In this image, I zoomed out to focus on the moment of Transfiguration. Jesus shines like a beacon atop the high mountain while former prophets appear. The

disciples are terrified, but also want to live this moment forever, making the glory-filled rock face their home. At once a cloud descends, obscuring things further, and God's voice echoes down, "This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him!" (Mark 9:7). It's almost as though Jesus had exhausted all efforts to get the disciples to listen, and God had to spectacularly reiterate the importance of listening. I think it's important to note that following God's words, all the disciples could see was Jesus.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman



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- Recall a time you received a hard truth that challenged your notions of what is real. How did you react? What led you to transformation or change? Did the hard truth become less threatening at some point? If so, what changed in you so that you were more open and willing to receive it?
- Consider a time when you have been rebuked—perhaps for speaking up about a difficult issue or naming a hard truth. How did you handle the criticism? Did you respond to the one who criticized your message? In that situation, did you need to be rebuked, or were you delivering a message that needed to be heard?
- In her artist statement for "Transfiguration," Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman writes, "I think it's important to note that following God's words, all the disciples could see was Jesus."5 Peter and the disciples hear Jesus, but it's not until their reality is transfigured that they truly listen to the voice of God. What practices allow us to cultivate and sustain a posture of listening?
- Where are you being guided to repent—to change direction and follow a new path?

Corbin Presbyterian Church Weekly Update

Welcome! Whether you are joining us in person or online today, we pray that in this time of worship you will encounter the living Christ and experience the warmth of our caring community of faith. If you would like to know more about us, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or learn how to become a member, please visit our website at www.corbinpres.org, and contact Pastor Lisa Eye at pastor@corbinpres.org or 606-528-1444

Worship During the COVID-19 Pandemic: While the COVID-19 virus continues to pose some health risks to our community and congregation, we are committed to loving our neighbor by following the *Plan for Resuming In-Person Worship*, adopted by the Session on May 19, 2020. Thank you for your cooperation, flexibility and patience as worship in ways that may seem new or even strange to us. The *Plan* is reviewed regularly and new or updated provisions will be shared as soon as possible

We will continue to provide online worship access for the foreseeable future to include anyone who is unable or does not feel comfortable being physically present in worship.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Homebound friends and family members; Sandra Adams; Dwight Barnett; Chuck Barton; Charlene & Tom Blair; Mason Jones; Aiden Craft; Pam & Rob Hall; Carolyn Henderickson; Philip Martin; Ruth Martin; Donny Seay; Keats Smith; Jack Taylor; Ed Tye; Karllyle Keith Young; Students, Teachers & Families; Jean Jacobs; Denise Hinkle; Sheila Milburne; Thomas Brown; Alberta Irby (Margaret Henderlight's sister-in-law); Belinda Collins (Mary's neighbor); Shawn Smith (Begley's friend); Diane Rasher (Wayne Neal's sister) – Covid.

With confidence in your love and mercy, O God, we lift our prayers for those in need. Heal them in body, mind, or circumstance, working in them by your grace, wonders beyond all they may dream or hope. Amen

If you need to make an addition to the prayer list or have a name removed, please contact the church office.

Sandra Adams: If you are interested in sending Sandra a card or giving her a call here is her contact information: The Heritage Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Room 320; 192 Bacon Creek Rd; Corbin, KY 40701. Her phone # is 606-526-1065

Emergency Food Supply

Thank you to all who have donated to the Emergency Food Supply; your generosity is greatly appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sandra Adams contact information: The Heritage Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Room 320; 192 Bacon Creek Rd; Corbin, KY 40701. Her phone # is 606-526-1065

The Session will be having a called meeting on March 02, 2021. The next regular session meeting will be March 09, 2020.

The Senior Box pick up will be on March 24, 2021. If you have additional questions or would be interested in helping please contact Sam Tye at (606) 524-1521 or Karen Nies at (606) 344-0229. All safety guidelines will be in place.



Corbin Presbyterian Church

601 Master Street, Corbin, KY 40701

Phone: 606-528-1444 **Website:** www.corbinpres.org **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CorbinPresby/>

Zoom link for worship: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83307369561?pwd=NUJocHN1NmNMZEtiOUdGRW0ycEwzdz09>

The Reverend Lisa R. Eye, Pastor

Clay Howard, Director of Music/Organist

Mary Begley, Administrative Assistant

Session

Rev. Lisa Eye, Moderator

Mary Begley, Clerk

Class of 2021

Tom Fish

Bob Martin

Class of 2022

Janet Martin

Doralene Webb

Class of 2023

David Hoskins

Harold Davis

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am – 1pm

Rev. Eye may be reached by calling the Church Office or by email: pastor@corbinpres.org.

