

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM



REFLECTION - PREPARATION OF OUR MINDS
(Entering worship, let us prepare our hearts.)

“A humble heart changes everything. And that's the kind of devotion the Father loves and desires from every one of his children. Public performance is easier than private devotion. But to care more about impressing people than about connecting with God is just one more adventure in missing the point.” – Ed Rowell

“Why, then, criticize your brother’s actions, why try to make him look small? We shall all be judged one day, not by each other’s standards or even our own, but by the standard of Christ. It is written: ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God’. It is to God alone that we have to answer for our actions.”
- Romans 14:10-12 (J.B. Philips)

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CHURCH

February Scripture: (Acts 2: 46-47)

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.
They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.
And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

PRAISE TO AN AWESOME GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

*INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) *debts*
*GLORIA PATRI

Hymnal #805

*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.*

*THE PEACE: “May the peace of Christ be with you.”

*HYMN: “In Christ Alone”

Hymnal Insert

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Most merciful Father, we are aware of the many times we have failed to follow your guidance, have failed to do your will. We have allowed self to blind us, pains to embitter us, and trials to discourage us. While we are mindful of the love of Christ for us,. We have failed to deny ourselves so that we might follow Christ completely. Gracious God, forgive our shortcomings; forgive our neglect; give us a pure heart through the indwelling Spirit, intent on following and pleasing you, focused on your call to new life, speaking as you would have us speak, all to the glory of you our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 18:21-32

Bible p. 835

PRAYER TO A LISTENING SAVIOR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING SENTENCE AND PRAYER (2 Corinthians 8:7)

But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

OFFERTORY: Glve Thanks

Hymnal #496

(Children are dismissed for Sunday School)

*DOXOLOGY:

Hymnal #808

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

*HYMN: “Make Room within My Heart, O God”

Hymnal #559

PREACHING THE WORD

*GOSPEL: Luke 12:41-48; 20:9-16

Bible p.1032,1041

SERMON:“Kingdom Responsibility”

PROCLAIMING THE GLORY OF CHRIST

*HYMN: “Living for Jesus a Life That Is True”

Hymnal #569

*BENEDICTION and THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE

(*Congregation, please stand if able.)



FOLLOWING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
JOIN US FOR OUR LENTEN LUNCHEON

We will begin a time of learning and discussion around the series
“The Journey: The Story of the Bible from Creation to New Creation.”

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

- Eliza Capehart, serving in the United States Air Force.
- John Langworthy, back injury.
- Brian Barnier, health.
- Jim Beddows, health.
- Nicole Thorp, health.
- Amos Munch, health.
- Jim and Christine Munch, health.
- Roberta Judd, health.
- Willis Stephens, (Jon Stephens’ father), health.
- Christopher Siebert, healing of foot.
- Jill Finch, health
- Betty Beatty, health
- Rev. Daniel Morton, health
- Mark Gerber, health

OUR MISSIONARIES:

Nic & Christy Brenner; Robert & Nina Bruneau; 4C Church Planting; Lion of Judah Academy.

UPCOMING:

- Women’s Bible Study**
Every Wednesday. 10:00 a.m.
- Lenten Luncheon (Sunday)**
Feb.25 Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24
- Hearts and Crafts**
Mar. 11th, 9:00 am

DONATIONS FOR THE VETERANS HOSPITAL

The church continues collecting items for the Veterans Hospital in West Haven. There is a list of needed items in the Fellowship Hall.

HOPELINE is in need of several items. Please bring them to church and place them in the basket in the narthex.

(List of needed items is in the Narthex)

DEACONS of the church are always available to meet with you, pray with you, and hear your concerns.

PRAYER TEAM

Prayer is a vital part of our ministry at the Sherman Church.
A Prayer Team meets every Thursday to pray for our Church Family.
If you have an immediate prayer concern, please call or email the church office or the Pastor. We will share the need with the Prayer Team.

FIRE EXITS are located at the rear of the sanctuary through the double doors and at the front through the doors on both sides of the altar.

BEING RESPONSIBLE

Jesus said, “Take responsibility to decide what is right.”

Luke 12:57



THE SHERMAN CHURCH
February 25, 2024

THE SHERMAN CHURCH

A MEMBER CHURCH OF
THE CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE
6 Church Road | Sherman, CT 06784
860-354-6114
info@shermanchurch.org | Shermanchurch.org

SERMON NOTES 2/25/24

- What is God will and purpose for my life?

Luke 12:41-48

- Who is the vineyard owner; who owns my life?
- What is my responsibility in the vineyard of life?
- How am I held accountable in my Christian walk?
- What have I done this week to accomplish the will of my Master?

Luke 20:9-16

- What gifts has God given me: skills, spiritual gifts, etc.?
- How have I responsibly used these gifts for His purpose?
- How can I use them for His glory in the coming weeks/months?
- How would I react to John Wesley’s questions?

OUR CHURCH:

Pastor:	Rev. John Loring Carpenter, Interim Pastor
Ministers:	The Congregation
Minister of Music:	Carolyn Kopsick
Moderator:	Edna Coons
Chair of Deacons:	Charles Mastroni
Co-Chair of Trustees:	Don Coons and Lynn Paulovicks
Flowers:	Lynne Gomez
Announcements:	Suzanne Browning
Prayers of the People:	TBD
Reader:	Ken Moschitta
Greeter:	Don and Edna Coons
Coffee Hour Host:	Anna Gallaso
Nursery:	Jess Jacques
Usher:	Charles Mastroni

CALENDAR

February 25 - March 2, 2024

(Links for online meetings may be found at shermanchurch.org)

SUNDAY:

WORSHIP SERVICES at 10:00 A.M. (Also Live Streamed)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lenten Luncheon - Second Sunday in Lent (After Worship)

TUESDAY:

TRANSITION TEAM MEETING at 7pm Online

WEDNESDAY:

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY at 10:00 AM - Fellowship Hall

CHURCH COUNCIL at 6:00 P.M. Online

AA at 7:00 P.M - Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY:

PRAYER IN THE PARLOR at 6:45 P.M

Dial-in Number: 667-770-1484; when prompted access code 357664#.

AA at 7:00 P.M - Fellowship Hall

NEXT WEEK: We continue the series “Journey to Jerusalem”, our theme for Lent. May this be a season of prayer and repentance as we seek God’s loving care through this Lenten series. Prepare each week by reflecting on the Word of God through the devotional material inserted in this bulletin. Come to worship having read the scripture for the day, which Mar 3 will be **Luke 11:1-13; 24-27**.

WHAT IS A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY?

It is a specific, significant, solemn gathering of God’s people to pray, repent, affirm His call, and embrace His covenant relationship. In the Book of Joel, God’s people had experienced great destruction from swarms of locusts. As spiritual leader, Joel knew the only remedy was to turn to God, calling His people to return to Him in a sacred time of prayer and worship – a sacred or solemn assembly. When the people responded, God heard, forgave, and restored their land.

God’s people periodically are faced with difficult circumstances: external persecution, natural calamities, and disenchanted society. The Church also experiences internal struggles: dissension, disinterest, and loss of the mission to which Christ had called them. Often in a transition between leaders there is a need to repent in the personal and corporate ways we have fallen short of the call of the Lord, while also to renew our call to fulfill the covenantal relationship offered through Jesus Christ. Now is such a time in the life of this church.

PUT MARCH 23, 10:00 AM ON YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!

Plan to not only join in a Solemn Assembly at the church, but also prepare your hearts and minds through a devotional available the week before. Be part of our coming together to seek God in a special and significant time of prayer.



EASTER FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

The flower committee is making plans to decorate the church sanctuary and the outside of the church for the Easter season.

Memorials will again be done by free-will donations to the Flower Fund in place of individual plant ordering.

Flower donation envelopes are available in each pew as of **March 3, 2024**. Simply place your donation in an envelope, with “In Memorial or In Honor of...” and place it in the offering plate.

The amount of your donation will only be known to the Financial Secretary of the church. If you do not live in the local area and wish to donate to the Flower Fund, please mail it, clearly marked, to the church office and your gift will be entered into the memorial folder. To be included in the memorial folder your donation should be received by **March 24th**. Donations to the Flower Fund will go to all decorations unless otherwise noted.

If you have any questions, please call the church office or speak with Penny LeMasurier, Edna Coons or Anna Galasso on Sunday morning! Keep an eye out for the next Flower Committee meeting. Anyone interested in this ministry is welcome to join us.



In Christ Alone

J = 80

D G A G A D

1 In Christ a - lone, my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.
 2 In Christ a - lone, Who took on flesh, Fullness of God in help - less babe!
 3 There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the world by dark - ness slain
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death This is the pow'r of Christ in me

D G A G A D

This cor - ner - stone, this so - lid ground, Firm through the fier - cest drought and storm,
 This gift of love, and right - eous - ness, Scorned by the ones He came to save.
 Then burst - ing forth in glor - ious day, Up from the grave He rose a - gain!
 From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.

G G/B A D/F# G G/B A

What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
 'Til on that cross as Je - sus died, The wrath of God was sat - is - fied
 And as He stands in vic - to - ry, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, Can ev - er pluck me from His hand

15 D G A G A D

My com - for - ter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.
 For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live.
 For I am His and He is mine Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 'Til He re - turns or calls me home Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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In Christ Alone
 Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

IN CHRIST ALONE: 8.8.8.8 D
 Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

VERSE 1

In Christ alone my hope is found
 He is my light my strength my song
 This Cornerstone this solid Ground
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
 What heights of love what depths of peace
 When fears are stilled when strivings cease
 My Comforter my All in All
 Here in the love of Christ I stand

VERSE 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh
 Fullness of God in helpless babe
 This gift of love and righteousness
 Scorned by the ones He came to save
 Till on that cross as Jesus died
 The wrath of God was satisfied
 For every sin on Him was laid
 Here in the death of Christ I live

VERSE 3

There in the ground His body lay
 Light of the world by darkness slain
 Then bursting forth in glorious Day
 Up from the grave He rose again
 And as He stands in victory
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
 For I am His and He is mine
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ

VERSE 4

No guilt in life no fear in death
 This is the power of Christ in me
 From life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny
 No power of hell no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand
 Till He returns or calls me home
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

LENT INSERT – WEEK 3
February 26 - March 3rd, 2024

“LEARNING TO PRAY”
(TOGETHER)

The Image of God within you is there for dignity and identity. God’s presence in you has many shapes, but none more obvious than the form of the cross. The cross erects its sacrament of self-awareness at the altar of revelation and mystery. God sends both sunshine and shadows to tell you who you are.



As a pilgrim on the way you are blessed with flashes of discovery and confounded by pockets of concealment. You embrace the light and evade the darkness, but God fills both with his nature, and continually calls your name. You plunge into the brightened clearing with confident affirmation; you must also plunge into the dark clouds where God is just as real, and you are just as much “His.”

The shadows of the cross on your pilgrim journey send you to psychiatrists’ couches, human potential seminars, and paperback best sellers on how to know yourself easily, with little cost of course. You need to go nowhere but where you are, as you are, for God still loves you. Self-discovery is made on the road to the cross, in every step, until we see ourselves at the foot of the cross, in prayer.

For too long now, you have said only that the cross means you need saving. The other word from the cross is part and parcel of the cross’s shadowed symmetry: you are worth saving in the eyes of your Creator. Do you believe this with all your heart? Are you willing to allow your feelings of guilt and shame to be placed in the arms of Jesus on the Cross?

As you journey to Jerusalem, spend time listening to the soft, still voice of God from the cross, “You are the one I died for. You are worth it to me no matter what the world may say.”

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
(After each day is space for reflection)

MONDAY February 26th	John 19:1-16
TUESDAY February 27th	Ezekiel 18:24-32
WEDNESDAY February 28th	Ephesians 6:10-20
THURSDAY February 29th	John 17:1-12
FRIDAY March 1st	John 17:13-26
SATURDAY March 2nd	Acts 1:6-14
SUNDAY March 3rd	Luke 11:1-13