

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Boise

March 5, 2023 • 10:45 a.m.

*Bold-faced type are words the congregation speaks together.
The * invites you to stand in body or spirit.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude on LIEBSTER JESU

Paul Fey

WELCOME

This is the day the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

INTROIT

Bless Us, O God

Richard Shephard

*Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence,
That we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

What is it like to begin again?

It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.

It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.

It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

May we learn as we seek; may we be brave enough to begin again.

Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

*HYMN 395

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LIEBSTER JESU

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new life, you call us into unknown places, and we bury our heads in the sand.

You promise all the stars in the sky, and we doubt it can be true. You speak of new life in the Spirit, and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance. Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you. Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you. O Lord, have mercy on us... *[Silent prayer, followed by:]*

Forgive us, O God, and move us to trust, that we may boldly live your grace and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE / PASSING THE PEACE

HEARING THE WORD

TIME FOR CHILDREN / CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

We invite children to come forward for a moment in worship designed for them. Following that, they may go to Children's Chapel and return to the worship service during the hymn following the sermon.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we come to you with our biggest questions. Who are we called to be? What do you need from us? Where are you in our midst? How can we follow you more clearly? As we read your Word, we ask that you would weave answers into the text. Speak to us through these ancient stories, that we might find what we are seeking in you, amen.

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 12:1-4A

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.



ANTHEM

Footsteps Craig Courtney

*I see His footsteps in the way,
And follow them through darkest night,
Unafraid, I stumble not,
In the glow of perfect light, I see.*

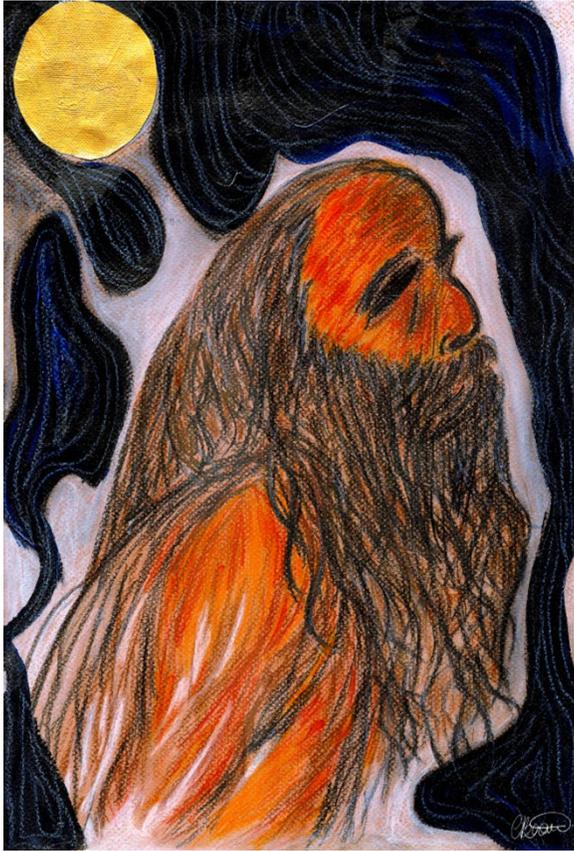
*I walk in footsteps of His love,
And find His light leads on before,
Then He gently turns to me,
Softly whispers, “trust Me more.” I walk.*

*Then as I follow in His way,
My path ahead will brightly shine,
For in His path of guiding light,
I find His footsteps first, then mine.*

- Jonathan Cook

SECOND LESSON: JOHN 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born



from above.’⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

REFLECTION ON THE WORD AND LIFE:

“How Do We Begin Again?”
Second in a Six-Week Lenten Series, “Seeking”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn (see insert)

Begin Again

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who meets us in the shadows, who welcomes our questions, who invites us to begin again. We believe that Jesus showed us a new way, a deeper faith, a more compassionate existence. We believe that all of our beginnings should return us to this foundation, and that no matter how many times we lose our way, God always welcomes us home. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Prayer for Peace

Paul Fey

Scan this code using the camera on your smartphone and follow the instructions to make a secure donation to our ministries at ffcboise.org/donate, OR you can mail cash or check to the church office. Thank you for your support!



***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (traditional)

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

***HYMN 503**

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

O QUANTA QUALIA

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE**

God's Love

Richard Shephard

*God's love has been shed abroad in our hearts
Through the Holy Spirit he has giv'n us.
- Romans 5:5*

POSTLUDE

Grand Chœur in D Minor

Paul Fey

LEADING WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Andrew Kukla, *Pastor* Ryan Dye, *Minister of Music*
FPC Chancel Choir Luann Fife, *Pianist* Rachel Yates, *Liturgist*

Today's flowers are given by the Deacons to the Glory of God

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