

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 28, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

Jesus makes his way toward Jerusalem and the cross, so that we might have undeserved forgiveness for our sins.

Theme for the day:

Resisting temptation, taking up the cross, following Jesus, and living the abundant life of living for others.

Call to worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer).*

Pastor: From generation to generation, God names us and claims us. God names us and claims us.

People: **Blessed be the Lord, our God.**

Pastor: When we try to tell God what to do, Christ chastens us and leads us back onto the paths of life.

People: **Let all who draw breath come back to the Lord.**

Pastor: From generation to generation, God names us and claims us.

Unison: **Let heaven and earth praise God's holy name. Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

We seek you in your word, O God, as though we are embodying your grace in our being. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may this word be to us a blessing freeing our souls. Then with our mouths, we will praise you and with our lives, we will bless you, our Savior and Hope Forever. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Romans 4:13-25** **Mark 8:31-38**

(readings begin on the next page)

Message: **FAITH ALONE!**

Pastoral Prayer

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Abundant God, you give us all we need from mountain tops to grassy areas. You command us to be generous, especially to the poor and the marginalized. Your generosity astounds and humbles us. We come with gratitude and awe, asking you to receive what we have brought in response. May these gifts be a pleasing and fragrant offering for the sake of the world you came to save. We pray in Jesus's name, Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Sisters and Brothers, stay firm in the Lord. Be a humble follower.
Trust with faith in Christ alone.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS for February 28, 2021

first reading – ROMANS 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So

numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

second reading – MARK 8:31-38

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. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 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.”

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. 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. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 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.”

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Sebastopol United Methodist Church
500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472
sebumc@sonic.net sebumc.org YouTube channel: Sebastopol UMC

Thank you for worshipping with us today.