



ARCH STREET
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025 /10:45 a.m.

**"We are God's lighthouse:
a compassionate and inclusive community
that welcomes everyone to join us as
we do justice, promote equity,
show kindness, love mercy,
and walk humbly with God."**

ASPC's Mission Statement

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

J. Donald Dumpson

WORK OF THE COMMUNITY

Jessica Johnson

SONG OF PRAISE

Because of Who You Are
(stand in body or spirit)

Congregation

**Because of who You are, I give You glory.
Because of who You are, I give You praise.
Because of who You are, I will lift my voice and say
Lord, I worship You because of who You are (2x).**

**Jehovah Jireh, my provider
Jehovah Nissi, Lord, You reign in victory
Jehovah Shalom, my Prince of Peace
And I worship You because of who You are (2x)**

CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Psalm 91)

Lars Peterson

Leader: We live in the shelter of the Most High and abide in the shadow of the almighty.

People: Our refuge and our fortress, my God, in whom we Trust

Leader: God commands God's angels to guard us in all our ways

People: God's angels bear us up

Leader: And those who love God will be delivered

All: In long life, we will know God's name and be shown salvation.

HYMN

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength
(see insert/stand in body or spirit)

Congregation

INVITATION TO TELL THE TRUTH

Don Lincoln

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Don Lincoln

Just and merciful God, you have saved us. You heard have heard our cries through the generations. You saved Noah from the flood and brought Abraham out of the land Ur. You saved for your people the land of milk and honey. You brought them out of the land of Egypt. You then saved us from our own sins. And yet we continue to lose our way. We allow temptations to guide our decision making. And though we know your name, we get lost again and again. Forgive us God, for the times when your word is near, but not on our heart: when we stray away from righteousness and towards earthly distractions. May we once again call on your name and be saved...

A moment for silent reflection and confession

Leader: We entrust these prayers to you O God. Amen

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Don Lincoln

PASSING THE PEACE Amen, Amen, Amen!
(stand in body or spirit)

Congregation

Leader: Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING Thank You, Lord
(stand in body or spirit)

Congregation

**Thank You Lord (3x), I just want to thank you Lord.
Been So Good (3x), I just want to thank you Lord.
Saved My Soul (3x), I just want to thank you Lord.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Leader: *The Word of God for the People of God*

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

"In All Things: Prayer"

Lars Peterson

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Don Lincoln

Leader: *The Lord be with you*

People: **And also with you**

Leader: *Lift up your hearts*

People: **We lift them up to the Lord**

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God*

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS Don Lincoln & Jessica Johnson

COMMUNION MUSIC Before I Take the Body of My Lord Congregation
(see insert/stand in body or spirit)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERING OF SELF

(stand in body or spirit)

Jessica Johnson

OFFERING MUSIC

(stand in body or spirit)

ASPC Choir and Congregation

BENEDICTION

Lars Peterson

Welcome Back, Lars!

We welcome Lars Peterson back to the pulpit, to join Pastor Don in leading worship. Lars became a candidate for ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church while a member at Arch Street Presbyterian. Lars and his family are now members of Old Pine Presbyterian Church, a few blocks from their home, where there is a robust ministry program for young children, but they still hold Arch Street Presbyterian dear in their hearts. Lars is nearly finished with the ordination process, and it will be great to have him in the pulpit!

329 God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

(Psalm 46)

1 God is our ref - uge and our strength, our
 2 Though hills a - mid the seas be cast, though
 3 Where God a - bides a riv - er flows; that
 4 Since God is in the midst of it, the

ev - er - pres - ent aid, and there - fore, though the
 foam - ing wa - ters roar, yea, though the might - y
 cit - y will re - joice. But na - tions fear and
 cit - y walls shall stand, se - cure and safe with

earth be moved, we will not be a - fraid;
 bil - lows shake the moun - tains on the shore.
 king - doms shake be - fore God's thun - dering voice.
 God's sure help, when trou - ble is at hand.

The first two stanzas of this very condensed paraphrase of Psalm 46 were created early in the 20th century, and the last two stanzas were prepared near its end. The text is set to a late 16th-century psalm tune that comes from the first such collection to give tunes names.

428 Before I Take the Body of My Lord

Bm Em Bm A G A Bm

1 Be - fore I take the bod - y of my Lord, be - fore I
 2 The words of hope I of - ten failed to give, the prayers of
 3 The nar - row - ness of vi - sion and of mind, the need for
 4 Of those a - round in whom I meet my Lord, I ask their
 5 Lord Je - sus Christ, com - pan - ion at this feast, I emp - ty

G D Em Asus A Em C Am

share his life in bread and wine, I rec - og - nize the
 kind - ness bur - ied by my pride, the signs of care I
 oth - er folk to serve my will, and ev - ery word and
 par - don and I grant them mine, that ev - ery con - tra -
 now my heart and stretch my hands, and ask to meet you

Em C G Bm Em A Bm

sor - ry things with - in: these I lay down.
 ar - gued out of sight: these I lay down.
 si - lence meant to hurt: these I lay down.
 dic - tion of Christ's peace might be laid down.
 here in bread and wine which you lay down.

As this text acknowledges, the sins that separate us from God and from each other can be both things done and things left undone, as well as attitudes and habits that keep us from living in harmony. Letting go of our self-sufficiency enables us to receive Christ's gracious gifts.

TEXT: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1989

MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1989

Text and Music © 1989 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

LAYING DOWN

10.10.10.4



What is Lent?

A Time of Reflection, Prayer and Spiritual Growth

What we hear during Lent is the power and possibility of the paschal mystery, and that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. To appropriate the new life that is beyond the power of death means we must die with Christ who was raised for us. To live for Christ, we must die with him. New life requires a daily surrendering of the old life, letting go of the present order, so that we may embrace the new humanity. “I die every day!” asserts Paul (1 Corinthians 15:31). Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church’s peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the “old self.” In dying, we live.

Therefore, at the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families and even our lives do not last forever. “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). The liturgies throughout Lent try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters, waters that turn out to be not only our death tomb but surprisingly our womb of life. Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back on everlasting arms. Death? How can we fear what we have already undergone in baptism?

It is the power of the resurrection on the horizon ahead that draws us into repentance toward the cross and tomb. Through the intervention of God’s gracious resurrection, lifelong changes in our values and behavior become possible. By turning from the end of the “old self” in us, Lenten repentance makes it possible for us to affirm joyfully, “Death is no more!” and to aim toward the landscape of the new age. Faithfully adhering to the Lenten journey of “prayer, fasting and almsgiving” leads to the destination of Easter.

During the final week, Holy Week, we hear the fullness of Christ’s passion, his death, and resurrection. From Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and on to the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), all of Holy Week focuses on the passion. As his followers, we travel Christ’s path of servanthood through the Lord’s Supper and the suffering of the cross toward the glory of Easter, all of which underscores the inseparable link between the death and resurrection of Jesus.

An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003 110-111)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communing Together

TODAY, Immediately Following Worship - 1:30 p.m.

We welcome all ASPC members, visitors and friends of all ages to join as we gather for lunch immediately after worship for a time of extended fellowship and getting to know one another better in the Social Hall. Lunch and drinks will be provided. We will wrap up by 1:30 pm, but feel free to join in even if you can only linger a short time. For more information contact Kristen Lynch (kwlynchpenn@gmail.com).

The Good Book Club

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 12:10pm

The Good Book Club has begun a study focusing on the theme: What's work got to do with it? If God does everything to save us...do we have to do anything? If following Jesus means we've got to do something, why do Christians sometimes say what they do counts for nothing? Join us for a 12-week study of the Letter of James and the Letter to the Ephesians. We will explore what these two New Testament letters said to early Christians and can still say to us about God's grace, our good works, and what (if anything) the two have to do with each other. The Good Book Club will be meeting via Zoom. To connect with us go to our website at archstreetpres.org and click on the Good Book Club link every Wednesday for a Spirit-led conversation. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Pulsifer (mikepulsifer@comcast.net) or Bill Smith (smithbrackett@verizon.net).

Church in the Alehouse Book Club

Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 6:30pm at Harper's Garden, 31 S. 18th St (19103)

Please join us on Tuesday, March 18, for our Church in the Alehouse Book Club gathering. The group will meet at 6:30pm at Harper's Garden (near 18th and Market Streets) in a "private greenhouse". The topic of discussion is *The Book of Joy* by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Join us as we discuss how faith has helped others, and can help us, find joy despite the challenges we face. Please join us in person or on Zoom. For more information, please contact Joanna (joanna7200@gmail.com) or Kristen (kwlynchpenn@gmail.com).

\$5 for the Future

This beautiful church building has meant so much to so many people for the past 170 years. And it no doubt means much to you, too. To restore and maintain the building so that others can find community, solace, joy, and a church home here, we are asking each of you to give \$5 – or more – to our new foundation, Friends of Arch Street.

\$5 for the Future is the program to launch support for the non-profit Friends of Arch Street Foundation. The sole mission of this 501c3 foundation, separate from the church, is to preserve our beautiful building. No doubt you have noticed certain building issues, such as the roof and windows, which need attention. The Friends of Arch Street is dedicated to the repair and maintenance of the building.

To kick off the drive, we are asking all members and friends to contribute \$5 – or more. In this way, foundations and other funding sources will know we have a 100% participation rate among the members and friends of the Church. Contributions to Friends of Arch Street are tax deductible.

The yellow envelope in this bulletin is simply waiting for your gift! Slip \$5 – or more – into the envelope and you will know that you will be a founding contributor to this new chapter in the life of our church home.

To give online, use the QR code below



ORIENTING TO ARCH STREET

Children are Welcome at Arch Street Presbyterian Church

We have a lot to learn from children and from one another as we raise them. Children and their shuffling choruses are always welcome in worship. Young children are also welcome to participate in our Children's Ministry where they play and learn stories of our faith. To find the Children's Room, exit the sanctuary doors to the left of the pulpit, make a left and walk pass the bathrooms, at the end of the hall, go up the stairs to the mezzanine level.

E-Newsletter

Are you looking to keep up with the life, work, and ministry of Arch Street Presbyterian Church? Consider signing up for our weekly e-newsletter. Contact Femi Jordan (fjordan.aspc@gmail.com) with your preferred email address or call 215-563-3763.

Give Online

While society tells us to hold tightly to our money, God begs us to be gracious. We believe in our mission at Arch Street Presbyterian Church and hope you do, too. We want to make it as easy as possible for you to give financially. Go to archstreetpres.org and click on "Give" in the top right corner.

Parking

Stop inside for a placard (on the radiator cover in the narthex) to place on your windshield and take advantage of the FREE PARKING available on 18th Street: the West side, between Arch and Cherry Streets. This arrangement is on Sundays from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Prayer Cards

Arch Street Presbyterian Church is a praying community. We hold on to each other through prayer even when we are apart from each other. Are there joys or struggles you want this community to share with you? Please write your prayer(s) on the card provided in the pews and drop it in the offering basket so that we might walk alongside you on your journey. The ASPC staff, deacons and other leaders pray over these cards throughout the week.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the hallway right outside of the sanctuary and social hall. From the sanctuary, exit through the double doors to the left of the pulpit.

If you have questions, please contact Femi Jordan at fjordan.aspc@gmail.com.

