

# Covenant Community Church



# Third Sunday in Lent

## March 20, 2022

### We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship

Leader: Come, all who are thirsty.

**People: Come, all who are seeking.**

Leader: Come, all who are waiting.

**People: Come, all who labor.**

Leader: Come, all who need rest.

**People: Come, all who dream dreams.**

Leader: Come—whether you're young or old, confident or curious, lonely or hopeful.

**People: This is God's house. All are welcome here.  
Let us worship holy God.**

\*Confession

### Call to Confession

There is something so healing, so life-giving,  
about telling our stories.

In the prayer of confession, that is what we get to do.

The mask comes off. Any pretense of perfection is removed.

We let the pressure to perform slip away and we  
sit here, face to face with God,  
sharing honestly who we long to be.

Friends, there is healing here.

There is life to be gained here.

So join me in this moment of honesty. Join me in the prayer of confession.

## Prayer of Confession

**Holy God,  
we treat our self-worth like something that can  
be bought at a store;  
but you know this even better than we do.  
Instead of trusting that we are made good,  
instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are,  
we stockpile our value in earthly things—  
in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in  
wealth and power.  
Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick.  
Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts that  
we won't be forgotten if we slow down.  
We won't be forgotten if we rest. Gratefully we pray,  
amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

Friends, take a deep breath. Release the tension  
in your jaw. There is good news here. For even  
when we stumble, even when we take the easy  
way out, even when we forget our own self-worth,  
even when we lose our way—we belong to God.  
Say it with me—  
We are loved. We are claimed. We are  
under God's wing. We are worthy of grace.  
We belong to God. Amen.

\*Opening Hymn

#3 Earth and All Stars!

\*Opening Prayer

## **We Hear the Word**

\*Scripture

Luke 13:1-9

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

## **We Respond**

Interlude

\*Hymn

#407 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

## **We Are Sent into the World**

\*Closing Hymn

#710 We Are Part of God's Creation

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious, gracious, gracious to you,  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
And give you, give you, give you peace.

Leader: Go in Peace. Love and serve the Lord!

**People: Praise be to God!**

\*Denotes all who are able, please stand

## Helping Us Worship

Minister to the Congregation:

Rev. Jeannette Conver

Music Leader:

Peter Olson

Scripture Reader:

Susanna Olson



### **Luke 13:1-9 New Living Translation**

About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. **2** “Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?” Jesus asked. “Is that why they suffered? **3** Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God. **4** And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? **5** No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too.”

**6** Then Jesus told this story: “A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. **7** Finally, he said to his gardener, ‘I’ve waited three years, and there hasn’t been a single fig! Cut it down. It’s just taking up space in the garden.’

**8** “The gardener answered, ‘Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I’ll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. **9** If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.’”