

Welcome to



SECONDPRES

A Place to Be...Restored

Jamie Kaiser

Sunday, March 16, 2025
9:00 AM

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To access past bulletins and announcements:
visit secondpres.com/weekly2025

PRELUDE

Hommage à Gershwin (Quodlibet on Slane) Christa Rakich

Dr. Dennis Gotkowski

WELCOME & LIFE TOGETHER

Jamie Kaiser

CHORAL INTROIT

Fill My Cup Isaiah Jones

Chapel Choir

CALL to WORSHIP

Elder Sara Palmgren

God makes the Divine presence known
in cloud and fire, in song and scripture.

The Holy Presence leads
through wilderness landscapes, through times of transition.

We follow as we can
carrying our past, bearing hope for our future.

We gather together for rest and nourishment along the way:
our hearts open to receive whatever God will offer.

CALL to CONFESSION

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Lord of all, we come humbly before you, acknowledging that we often try to navigate life on our own. We struggle to trust you or anyone else to be present for us. God, we ask for your forgiveness for the sins we've committed against you and others, whether knowingly or unknowingly. Guide us into your presence and the plan you have for our lives.

ASSURANCE of PARDON

The Good News is this:

**The wilderness will rejoice;
the dry land will blossom.**

**The people of God will return
with joy and singing.**

Thanks be to God, Amen!

***GLORIA PATRI**

Congregational Singing

***PASSING of the PEACE**

Jamie Kaiser

***SONG of the DAY**

Be Thou My Vision No. 339

Congregational Singing

FOUNDATIONS

Jamie Kaiser

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 63 p. 527

Elder Shelly Gant

WORD IN SONG

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Dan Forrest

Chapel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 p.12

Jamie Kaiser

MESSAGE

A Place to Be...Restored

Jamie Kaiser

***HYMN**

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High No. 83

Congregational Singing

OFFERING

Offertory I Will Exalt (Bethel Music)

Jamie Kaiser

*Doxology

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Ending with the Lord's Prayer

Jamie Kaiser

***HYMN**

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go No. 384

Congregational Singing

BENEDICTION

Jamie Kaiser

POSTLUDE

The God of Abraham Praise arr. Gordon Young

Dr. Dennis Gotkowski

**Please stand*

UPCOMING at SECONDPRES

UPCOMING ACE CLASSES

Lenten ACE classes will be held following worship service each Sunday now through April 13. This ACE class will be held in the Chapel. For more information, contact Scott Hamilton.

WESTMINSTER COMMUNION

We invite our folks at Westminster to join us in the Club Room on Wednesday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m. for our quarterly fellowship morning with Pastor Trey!

VBS REGISTRATION & VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS

Get ready for an Alaskan adventure on June 23-27 during VBS 2025! To register or sign-up to volunteer with us this year, visit secondpres.com/family-ministry!

EASTER LILY DONATIONS DUE BY 4/11

The Deacons have purchased Easter lillies for our members in nursing homes, retirement communities, and for our members who are homebound. If you would like to remember or honor a loved one, please consider filling out a card with Kim Pare during the week. The names of these folks will be printed in the Easter bulletin. The suggested donation is \$20. **Cards must be completed by Friday, April 11.**

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS AT SECOND PRES

EVERY SUNDAY

8:45 am: Sunday Morning Brunch
9:00 am: Worship Service
10:15 am: ACE (Adult Christian Education)
10:15 am: High School Brunch
3:00 pm: Lego League Robotics (*Grades 4-8*)

EVERY TUESDAY

7:00 pm: Scouts Troops 903 and 9903
6-8:00 pm: First Tech Challenge (FTC)
Robotics (*Grades 7-12*)

EVERY WEDNESDAY

6-7:30 pm: K-5th KidsMin (90 min.)
6-7:30 pm: 6-8th YOUTHMin (90 min.)
6:30-8:00 pm: Chapel Choir Rehearsal

EVERY THURSDAY

11:30 am: Thursday Prayer Lunch

JOY FELLOWSHIP MARCH 22

JOY Fellowship is hosting a bus trip to Springfield, Illinois on Saturday, 3/22! For \$50, your experience will include a tour the Lincoln home, lunch at Golden Corral, two-hour tour of Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, and a 30 minute tour of the Lincoln Tomb. The trip will be from 8:00 a.m. to around 5:15 p.m. For more information, contact Rich Schroeder.

WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY? ART SHOW

Join us for the 16th annual What's So Good About Good Friday? Art Show! Register at bit.ly/WSGAGFArtShow25 by March 28, or until full. Artwork will be displayed April 10-20, and to the public April 17-19 with a reception on April 18, 5-6:30 PM. Pickup is 4/22. Contact Jeannie Swanson at 309-310-1276.

GOD'S WORD: A SECOND PRES SPECIAL COLLECTION

Heritage invites you to explore what has been found in the nooks and crannies of Second Pres! The collection includes items such as contents from the 1865 cornerstone, bibles in 7 languages, sanctuary bibles, Dr. Martin's seminary textbooks, personalized bibles, and presentation bibles! The collection can be viewed in the south entrance display cases.

Please check in using your pew pad (located in each pew) or via the Second Pres church app.

LENT WITH SECOND PRES:

4/13: Palm Sunday Service - 9 am
4/17: Maundy Thursday Service - 7 pm
4/17- WSGAGF Art Show - Times Vary
4/19
4/18: Art Show Reception - 5-6:30 pm
4/18: Good Friday - 7 pm
4/19: Easter Vigil - 7 pm
4/20: Sunrise Service (Funks Grove) - 6:30 am
4/20: Easter at Second Pres - 9 a.m.

BIBLE STUDIES

EVERY TUESDAY

8:30 am: Morning Men's Bible Study (Wylie)

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY

11:30 am: Bible Study (Jones)

EVERY WEDNESDAY

6-7:45 p.m.: The Gathering (Jennings)

For more information on Bible studies
visit: secondpres.com/biblestudy

In **Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18**, God makes a covenant with Abram. Abram, dwelling in a tent in the land to which God had called him, hears God's promise: Abram will have descendants as numerous as the stars, and they will inherit the land God has set apart for them. In response, God instructs Abram to prepare a covenant ceremony. Yet, before Abram can take part, God causes Abram to fall into a deep sleep. While Abram sleeps, God alone completes the covenant ceremony.

This moment is one of the most profound displays of God's faithfulness. In ancient covenant rituals, both parties would walk between the divided animal sacrifices, symbolizing their mutual obligation to uphold the agreement—if either failed, they would share the fate of the animals. But here, only **God**, appearing as a smoking firepot and a flaming torch, passes through. God is declaring that God's promise does not depend on Abram's ability to uphold it; it rests solely on **God's unchanging character**. If God were ever to break God's word, God would cease to be God—but God will never fail.

God alone is the **Promise Maker** and the **Promise Keeper**. God does not require finite, fallible humans to make promises they cannot keep. This is **hesed (חֶסֶד)**—the steadfast, covenant love of the Lord. It is a love that never wavers, never falters, never fails.

In the wilderness, **Abram's faith was restored**. Abram's hope was rekindled. Abram's promise remained secure—not because of Abram's own strength, but because of God's unwavering faithfulness.

When we find ourselves in the wilderness—lost, weary, uncertain—we can take refuge in God's steadfast love. Even in our darkest, lowest, and most fearful places, we are not abandoned. **The Lord our God is faithful in love, rich in mercy, and abundant in grace**. When we lean into God, we, too, can be restored.

For the Promise Maker is the Promise Keeper. Always.