

# Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2020

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is my shepherd. He guides me and shows me the way. The Lord cares for me in good times and bad. The Lord will sustain and hold me during these challenging days.

## HYMN

*“He Has the Whole World in His Hands”*

*He Has the Whole World in His Hands*

*He Has the Whole World in His Hands*

*He Has the Whole World in His Hands*

*He Has the Whole World in His Hands*

## INVOCATION

God of strength and might, hold us who are weak. At this time, protect us from the forces in the world that blow against us and sustain us with your power. As we come into your presence in this moment of worship, grant us peace.  
In Christ’s Name, Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

*“Choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*

*Joshua 24:15*

## MEDITATION

*“Leaning on Jesus”*

A few weeks ago I was hiking in Oak Mountain State Park. I hiked up the “White” trail to the top of Oak Mountain. On the way up I became tired and stopped to catch my breath. I leaned against a pine tree and before I knew what was happening I was lying on the ground. The pine tree was dead and my weight caused it to snap and fall. The tree and the hiker went tumbling down to the ground.

My story in the forest raises a much needed warning for us: be careful what you lean your weight on. Be careful where you put your trust! This warning is so fitting for us today as we live in the fear of the Coronavirus and the stress of the economy.  
Everywhere we go, every step we take in these

challenging days, there are moments that call us to lean on fear. The emotion that says give your energy and commitment to me.

But as children of God we say no to fear. We follow the call of Joshua in the morning scripture. For Joshua said: “Choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Thank you Joshua! We do not choose fear. We choose faith. We will put our trust in God. Whatever we have to face in the future, we can hold on tight to our Father. We can trust Him and count on Him and lean on Him!  
We can lean our weight on his everlasting arms.

## HYMN

*“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”*

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear,*

*Leaning on the everlasting arms?*

*I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,*

*Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Leaning, leaning,*

*Safe and secure from all alarms;*

*Leaning, leaning,*

*Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

O God who meets us in our time of need with the Coronavirus, we call on you now to bless us with your healing presence.  
Be to us a healing stream. Wash us in the cool bath of your grace. Bind our wounds with the gentle embrace of your mercy, and give us a vision to sustain us in the strong grip of your love. Amen.

## CALL TO COMMUNION

As we come to communion in the comfort of our home, may the bread which is broken bring life to us. May the holy cup, poured out for all, be our salvation.

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

As we receive this holy meal, forgive our sins, renew in us the power of Your love and strengthen us for our ministry in the world. All this we ask in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ who taught us to pray. Our Father ...

**HOLY COMMUNION**

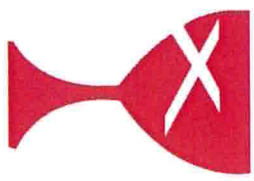
Partake of the holy communion (Bread, juice or whatever is available to you)

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night He was betrayed Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body that is broken for you. Take eat and do this in remembrance of me." In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it often in remembrance of me"

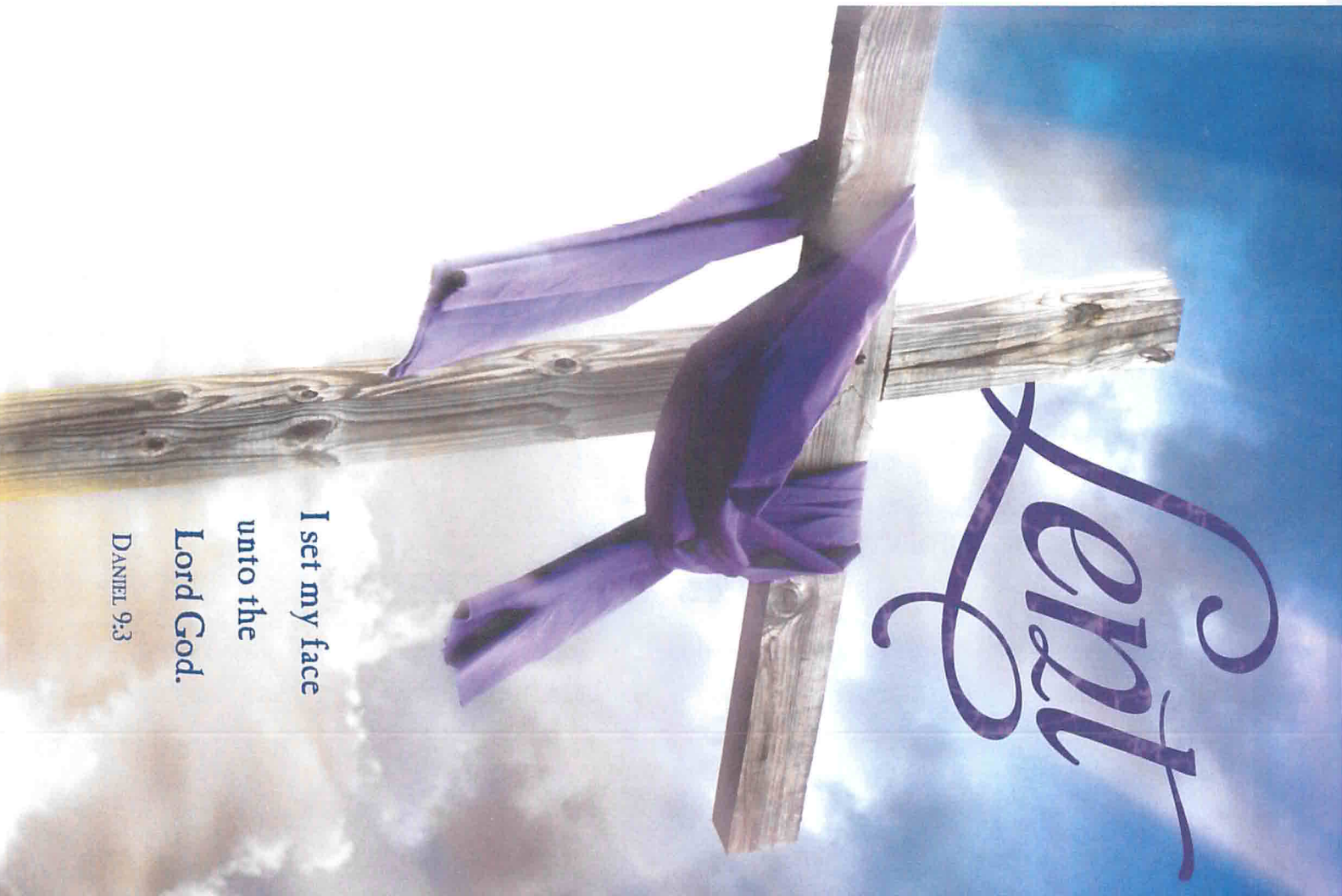
**BENEDICTION**

Go forth, fear not! God walks with us. God is always with us. Praise be to God. Amen



**Valley Christian Church**

2600 Cherokee Place  
Mountain Brook, Alabama 35216  
205-879-0419  
valleycc@bellsouth.net  
www.vccbhm.org



Let

I set my face  
unto the  
Lord God.

DANIEL 9:3