

# Service for the Lord's Day

Third Sunday in Lent

March 4, 2018

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

*God, our guide, give us hearts to listen and wisdom to discern your calling to us.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

## Gathering

PRELUDE

Selected

WELCOME

Jan Pennal

\*INTROIT #32

*"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"* (v.1)

Watts, 1715

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

The message of the cross sounds foolish to the world;

***But to us it is the power of God!***

We proclaim the scandal of Christ Crucified.

***The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than our strength.***

\*HYMN #32

*"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"* (v.2-3)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly; we are still weak. In the cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace. We confess our sins, trusting in God's wisdom and strength rather than our own. We now confess silently, and then, together with the Unison Prayer.

SILENT PRAYER

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Merciful God, how fickle we are; we sin against you without even knowing it. Cleanse us, we pray, of any unknown sin and save us from willfully ignoring your way. Let your commandments rule and guide us. Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships—with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors. Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness, rather than words that belittle or destroy. Turn us away from violence,***

***falsehood, and selfishness. Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power, for you are the God who made us, led us out of slavery, and has brought us into the community of faith. Help us to depend on you alone, and to rest in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.***

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

*"Lord, have mercy upon us,  
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us."*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness with God and with one another!

***Thanks be to God.***

\*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

#580

## Proclaiming

ANTHEM

*"An Anthem of Comfort"*

Gilbert Martin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Bibles, p.156/LG. p.202

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

HYMN #324

*"For All the Faithful Women"*

Stuempfle Jr., 1975

SECOND SCRIPTURE

John 2:13-22

Bibles, p.87/LG. p.113

The Word of God, for the People of God

*Thanks be to God*

SERMON

*"Spring Cleaning in the Temple"*

Rev. Kay Creer

## Responding

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

***God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of man's mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.***

*God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of his dealings with men. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.*

– The Confession of 1967 9.16

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Selected

\*DOXOLOGY

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## *Sending*

\*HYMN #307 *“God of Grace and God of Glory” (v.1-3)* Carter, 1886

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE #307 *“God of Grace and God of Glory” (v.4)*

POSTLUDE Selected

(\*) Those who are able may stand.

*Bold italic letters* indicate congregational responses.

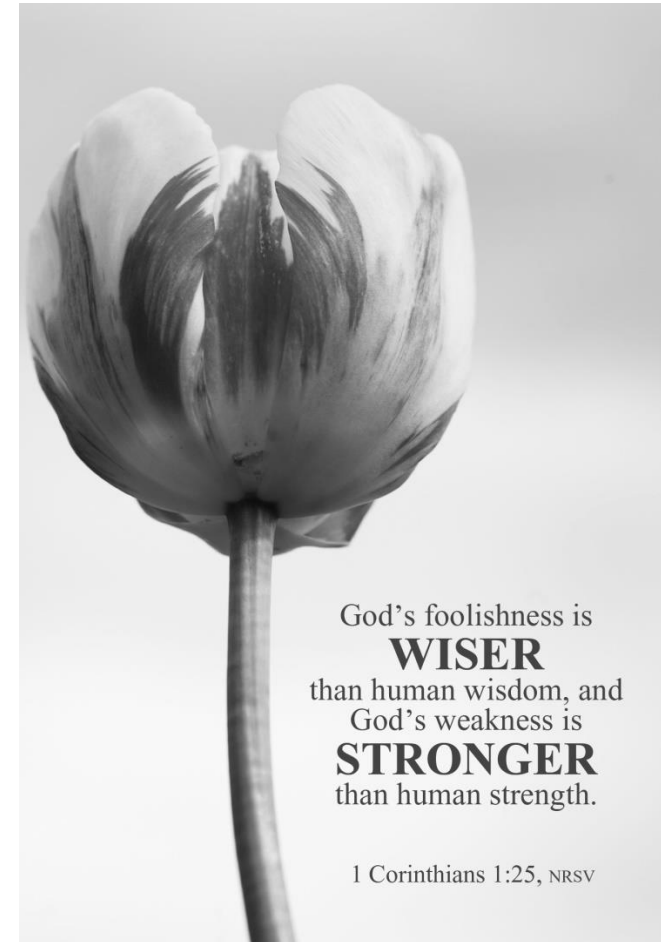
**Rev. Kay Ward Creer is a native of Henderson, Texas. She is the daughter of Thomas H. Ward and the late Pearlene Hill Ward, and is a graduate of Henderson ISD, Kilgore College and Texas Eastern School of Nursing. She attended Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, Texas and is now engaged in religious studies at Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary in Henderson. Kay was licensed and ordained by the East Texas Presbytery in 2002. She is a registered nurse having worked twenty years in the hospital setting and has spent the last ten years working in the Henderson ISD. As an ordained minister and nurse, she is able to provide healing for the body as well as the soul. Please warmly welcome Rev. Kay Creer following our service today.**

**This week’s prayers and concerns:** Debbie Castro, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Bob Schauwecker, Patsy Snelgrove, Billy Tapley, and Sue Williams.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun. 03/11

Fourth Sunday in Lent



God’s foolishness is  
**WISER**  
than human wisdom, and  
God’s weakness is  
**STRONGER**  
than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1:25, NRSV

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