

Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell
Music Director and Pianist: Rae Ann Borger

*Message Theme is from the Book: "The Message of Jesus"
A Lenten Study, by Adam Hamilton*

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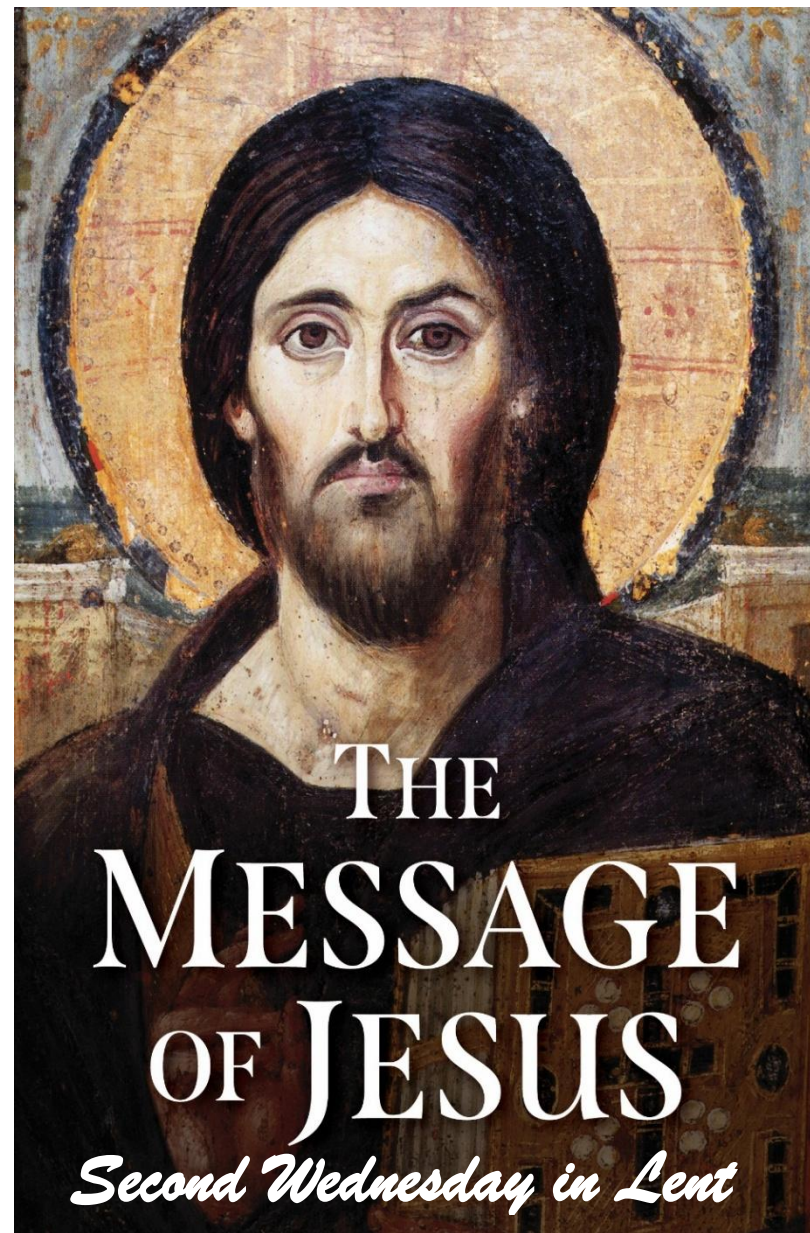
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The Kingdom of God Has Come Near

GREETING

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come and sing to the Lord! Make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: Come into God’s presence with thanksgiving! Make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

Pastor: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

People: We worship and bow down; we kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

Pastor: The Lord is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture, and the sheep of God’s hand. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 253.....“Lead Me to Calvary

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess we have failed to live as your holy people. We have cared for ourselves at others’ expense. We have not answered your calls for justice and peace. We have harmed the creation you entrusted to our care, and have ignored your image in our neighbors. In your mercy, forgive us. By your Holy Spirit, empower us to live as loyal subjects of your realm, and as more faithful followers of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: God has saved us from the power of darkness, bringing us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Believe the Good News: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE.....Psalm 99:1-5, Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 13:31-33

MESSAGE.....“The Kingdom of God Has Come Near”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe Jesus Christ brought God’s Kingdom near, calling all people to repent and believe the good news. We believe his death on the cross exposes both the reality of human sin and the depths of God’s selfless, sacrificial love. We believe his resurrection is God’s ultimate victory over sin, hate, evil, and death. We believe that through the Holy Spirit, Jesus still calls us and all to repent and believe the gospel, yielding our hearts to God alone, embodying in our lives the justice, mercy, and love of God’s rule.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

GOING WITH THE WORD

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN NO. 342.....“Rejoice, the Lord Is King!”