

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.



For Children: Please feel free to attend services with your children. For the safety of the children, staff and volunteers ERUCC will not be providing childcare during services until further notice. Your children are welcome to bring their own quiet activities, no materials will be provided. Please take ALL personal items with you after the service.

We have removed all items from the pew racks for your safety. Music selections will be provided within this bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us. At this time we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary, Thank you.

We ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org.

*Donate online by scanning this code:
or you may use our new texting donation system. Send a donation amount to 301-804-2933 . You will receive a text back within minutes with a link. Click the secure link and provide your method of payment and a receipt will be sent to you! Or, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.*



Thank you.



Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor (bkdaniel@erucc.org)

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (faw500@msn.com)

Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry (ksexton@erucc.org)

Alison E. Shafer, Music Director • Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director

Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

Amy Aguilar, Office Administrator (erucc@erucc.org) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • (ph) 301-662-2762 • www.erucc.org

EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m.

The Blessing of Generations

Greetings and Announcements

Honoring our youth and adults in Scouting

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Come, friends, and hear once again what God has done for us.

God has been faithful through our days.

We come at different ages and stages, different generations,

and we serve and worship together.

God remembers all of us, from the baby entering the world to the people living in their twilight years.

God keeps God's promises, no matter how young, no matter how old we may be.

Come and open your hearts to the God who will love and care for you through your entire life.

We come to worship God.

*Opening Prayer

Today, we remember the covenant of God with Abram and Sarai, or as they became known, Abraham and Sarah. We think about the promises God made to them to be able to bear children – even though it seemed impossible. They became the parents of a great nation, and the generations that followed them continue today. There is no age limit on the promises of God. There is no expiration date; there is no time stamp. Today we remember that it is through the generations that we continue to see God's faithfulness. Through those who went first sharing their wisdom and knowledge with those who come next. With those who are younger sharing their wisdom and experience with those who came before.

God, as we worship you today, open our hearts to those around us. May we see your faithfulness in each age and stage of our neighbors. In this Season of Lent, may we remember the promises you made to all generations – past, present, and future. Amen.

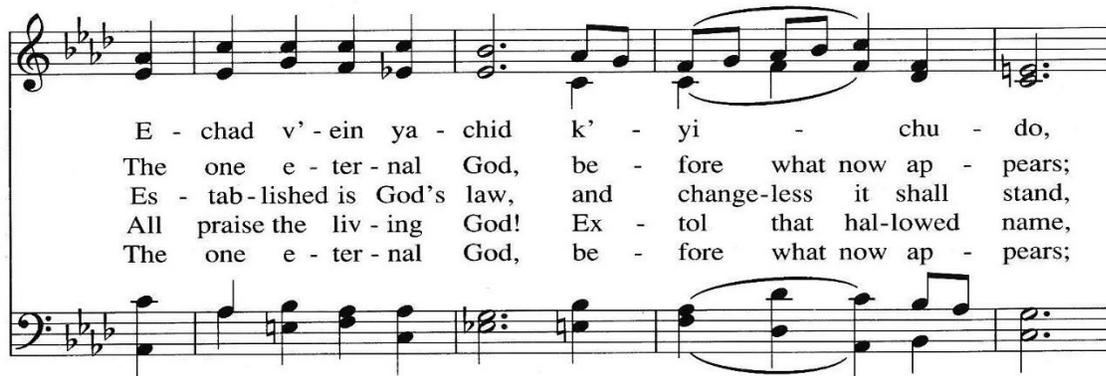
*Opening Hymn *The God of Abraham Praise*



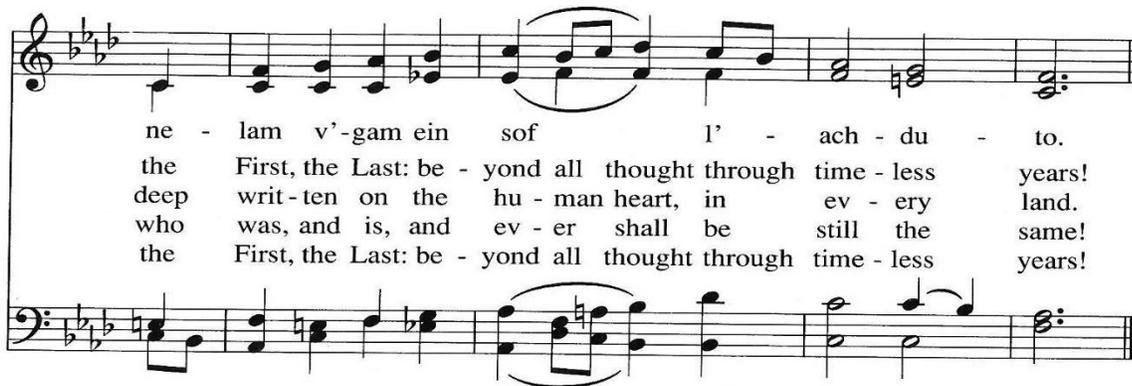
1 Yig - dal e - lo - him chai v' - yish - ta - bach,
1 The God of A - braham praise, all prais - es to God's name,
2 God's spir - it free - ly flows, high surg - ing where it will;
3 God has e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;
4 The God of Sar - ah praise, all prais - es to God's name,



nim - tza v' - ein eit el m' - tzi - u - to
who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!
God spoke of old in proph - et's word; that word speaks still.
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.
who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!



E - chad v' - ein ya - chid k' - yi - chu - do,
The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;
Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change - less it shall stand,
All praise the liv - ing God! Ex - tol that hal - lowed name,
The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;



ne - lam v' - gam ein sof l' - ach - du - to.
the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!
deep writ - ten on the hu - man heart, in ev - ery land.
who was, and is, and ev - er shall be still the same!
the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!

***Call to Confession**

In each generation, names fall in and out of fashion. Names are important to us. They tell us and others who we are. But we forget. We do not pay attention to names; we are careless with what we call others, we can sometimes use names to harm rather than heal. In the spirit of grace, let us confess to God and one another.

***Prayer of Confession**

God, you know each of us by name. The names we were given at birth, the names we are called by others, and the names we call ourselves. Sometimes, we use names as a way to make quick judgments about strangers. We use names as a way to validate our prejudices before we enter into relationship with another of your children. God, we call each other names to bully, destroy, or fail to build one another up. We find ways to break down one another with the names we call each other. When names are unkindly hurled at us, we tell the lie that “sticks and stones can break my bones but names will never hurt me” as we weep in sorrow. Give us words that heal, build up, create, empower, and nurture one another. Remind us that just as you gave Sarai and Abram new names, you give each of us a new name – Forgiven. May we live into that name through the forgiveness of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

God knows our names; God knows us inside and out. We follow generations of those who have followed God and followed Christ. And we know the truth of the ages – the same Christ who forgave those who came before also offers us that grace and forgives us. In Jesus Christ, claim the truth of the gospel and your new name – Forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Thought For the Day

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, for ever. Amen.

The Scripture

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Mark 8:31-38

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service

Anthem *Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord*

*- P. Baloché
ERUCC Singers*

***Closing Hymn** *The Church of God, In Every Age*

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**The church of Christ, in every age beset by change, but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.**

**Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.**

**Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

*Benediction

God, as we prepare to leave this place, may we be more aware of those we encounter. Those who are older who offer wisdom, those who are younger who offer a new way to see things. Through it all, you are God, now and forever. As we go, may we go wrapped in the knowledge that you promised Abraham and Sarah a new future, and we are part of that future. You keep your promises throughout time. May we share those promises with the world. Amen.

*Postlude



Congratulations to the scouts in our Congregation:

Aiden Baldree, Eli and Emma Baker, Austin, Peyton and Zoe Bowen, Kali Chappell, Alex Cumber, Paige Coffey, Alyssa Kline, Debbie Sendall, Laurel and Lucas Powell- Nguyen, and Katie Zander



Every Sunday at 10:30

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bziah0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w

You can get to the link on our homepage at www.erucc.org

The flowers on the altar this morning are in honor of all those suffering from chronic pain and illness, by Darryl Glick and Mark Ulrich.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of those currently serving in the military by Felecia Bishop.

Worship Next Week: [Ctrl + Click HERE to join worship Sunday 10:30 a.m.](#)

March 7 Third Sunday in Lent Contemplate God’s Glory

Psalm 19 “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O God.”

With the image of God as a rock, the end of the Psalm 19 uses an image from Creation for God that alludes back to the Creation language at the beginning of the psalm. Skies and rocks speak of God. The individual or leader who prays this psalm prays to live in dependence on God, and in harmony with all Creation.

John 2:13–22 speaks of Creation and justice in a different way. In the ancient world, the temple was understood as a microcosm of Creation. This relationship to Creation is evident in the architecture and decorations of the temple. Jesus cleansing the temple is a cleansing of Creation from injustice. In calling his body the temple, Christ holds together spirit and matter. The body is spiritual, is God’s temple. Christ’s body is a microcosm of Creation. If this is so, then Creation could be understood as the body of God.

We will share in Holy Communion this morning.

MID- WEEK LENTEN SERVICES from 12-12:30 p.m.

Wednesdays March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

<https://tinyurl.com/qxo5jzie>

Meeting ID: 844 2538 4958

Passcode: 103720

Can You Drink the Cup?

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 3 | Holding the Cup: The Cup of Joy |
| March 10 | Lifting the Cup: The Cup of Blessings |
| March 17 | Lifting the Cup: The Cup of Blessings |
| March 24 | Drinking the Cup: The Cup of Salvation |
| March 31 | Can You Drink the Cup? |

Always Close
Seminary Sunday
Church Vocations Sunday

Do you feel that you are called to ministry, but are unable due to time or finances to receive a traditional theological education? Take a look at the PATHWAYS program. According to their website (<https://www.pathwaystheological.org/>), "PATHWAYS offers you a program for progressive theological engagement that values the past without being limited by it, moving intentionally into the present while looking boldly towards the future. We provide a welcoming online space to bring your questions, doubts, and desire to deepen your understanding... Whether you are on the path to authorized ministry, want to hone your current skills, or just want to explore your faith more deeply, we have a program for you.

PATHWAYS welcomes students from a wide variety of denominational and faith backgrounds. PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc., is a registered independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It began as a program of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC). PATHWAYS continues to be affiliated with the Southeast Conference, works with UCC participants across the nation, and is a respected member of the Regional Theological Education Consortium. Participants also come to us from several other denominations and from non-denominational communities.

PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc. exists to offer a range of stimulating, accessible, and affordable online progressive Christian resources for church leaders, faith explorers, pastors, and those discerning various vocations and callings within and outside the church community.

PATHWAYS staff members work with representatives from Conferences and Associations to support the educational needs of UCC Members in Discernment (MID) pursuing an alternative pathway to ministry.

As part of the UCC's vision for multiple pathways to authorization, the entire PATHWAYS program of thirty plus courses can be used as an alternative route to fulfill the academic requirements for becoming an authorized minister."

To find out if PATHWAYS might be right for you, visit [pathwaystheological.org](https://www.pathwaystheological.org).



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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