

Order of Worship
March 8, 2020 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Announcements and Prelude

The word LENT is from an Old English form of LONG, as it is a long season of spiritual preparation for Easter – 40 days, not counting Sundays. It is a time of self-examination, self-denial, repentance; prayer, fasting, alms; following Jesus.

Call to Worship – From John 1:29-36

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said,
“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

***This is the one I meant when I said,
‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me
because He was before me.’”***

Then John gave this testimony:

“I saw the Spirit come down from heaven
as a dove and remain on him.

I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.”

***The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.
When he saw Jesus passing by, he said,
“Look, the Lamb of God!”***

Hymn *Close to Thee* #407

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer (#895)

Responsive Reading – From John 9:8-17

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

***“How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. He replied,
“The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes.
He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and
then I could see.”***

“Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said. They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath.

Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

Gloria Patri (#70) and Apostles’ Creed (#881)

Hymn Favorites

God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

They all gave out of their wealth, but this woman,
out of her poverty, put in everything ...

Mark 12:44

Doxology (#95) and Prayer

Scripture John 9:18-34

Sermon

Heart of the Miracle:
Lessons in Looking

***As Jesus went along, he saw a man blind from birth ...
John 9:1***

Hymn *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior* #351

Benediction

The Annual Jewish Festival of Purim

March 9-10, 2020

Based on the Book of Esther

This year Purim starts in the evening **Monday, March 9** and ends **Tuesday, March 10** when it gets dark.

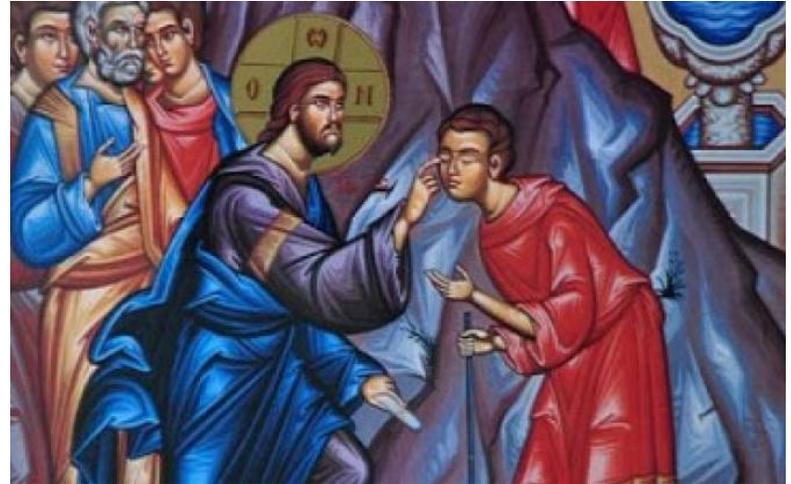
Many people think Purim is the Jewish version of Halloween. We Dress up in costumes. We have parties and we even drink wine! On the contrary, Purim is one of the holiest days in the Jewish calendar. It says Yom Kippur is called *Yom H'Kipurim*, likened to Purim which shows exactly how holy it is. Great miracles took place on Purim and this is why we celebrate.

On Purim, we read over the story that took place in the Book of Esther. Haman wanted to wipe out all the Jews of Persia and he had the king on board with him. As we all know, Mordechai and Esther saved the day and the evil Haman was killed. One of the reasons we dress up in our costumes on Purim is to remember that G-d was hidden throughout the entire story. Everything was a hidden miracle. This is a big part of the mitzvot we do on Purim. Purim is a special time – great miracles took place for the Jewish people, and this is why we celebrate.

Purim is a joyous holiday that recounts the saving of the Jewish people. The Purim story celebrates Esther's bravery, Mordechai's wisdom and BOOOOO Haman.

Purim is a community celebration that includes the reading of the Scroll of Esther, called the Megillah. Some Jewish communities put on a Purim shpiel, or play, that usually pokes fun at community leaders or relates somehow to what's happening in the world. Kids can enjoy fun festivities such as attending a carnival, dressing up in costumes and eating tasty **hamantaschens (triangular jam-filled cookies)**. Purim is easily the most fun holiday in the Jewish calendar.

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Cherry Valley Breakfast & Church Council

After the Service Today

Bible Study & Prayer Groups

10:00 am Mondays at Jean Christman's

10:00 am Wednesdays at Poplar Valley Social Hall

Community Lenten Service

7:00 p.m. This Wednesday, March 11 at Wooddale UMC

100 Barren Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

The Suffering and Glory of the Servant – Isaiah 53:1-3

Cherry Valley U.M.W. Ham Dinner

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, String Beans, Lettuce with Bacon Dressing, Bread & Butter, Coffee or Tea and Dessert
Adults \$10.00, Children 5-12 \$5.00, under 5 free – For tickets call
Miriam Lambert 570-629-2884 or Jean Christman 570-629-5711

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