

**The Second Sunday in Lent**

**March 5, 2023**

*in the 170<sup>h</sup> Year of the Parish*

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

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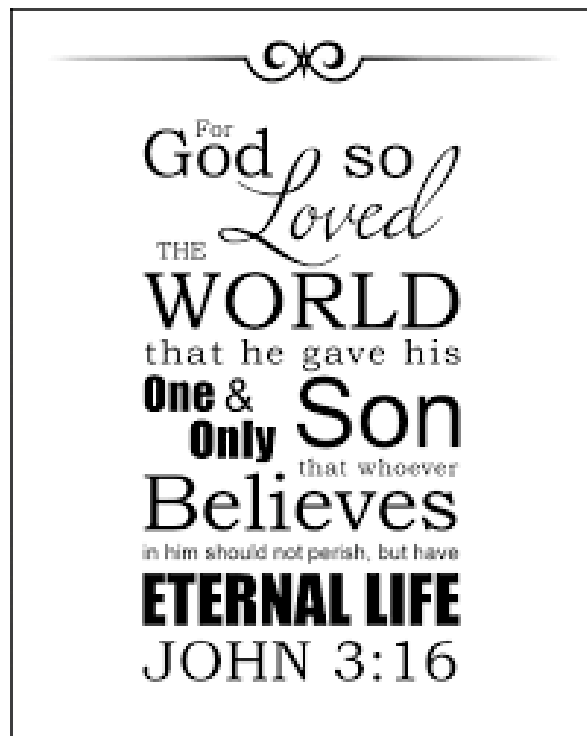
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

*Welcome to Saint Mark's!*

*This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.*

**Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”**



**Our COVID-19 Guidelines:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use.**

**Face masks are optional.**

**Offerings may be received by way of baskets as you enter or leave.**

**Please continue to observe social distancing when passing the peace.**

*A guide to hymnal use: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRELUDE** *Consolator*

J Carlson

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the aid of your people,  
turning us from sin  
to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that,  
attentive to your Word,  
we may confess our sins,  
receive forgiveness,  
and grow into the fulness of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** **Let us confess our sins in front of God and one another.**

*The congregation may kneel.*

**P** Gracious God,

**C** **have mercy on us.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit  
so that we may live and serve you  
in newness of life,**

**to the honor and glory of your holy name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you all your sins  
through Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit †  
keep you in eternal life.

**C** Amen.

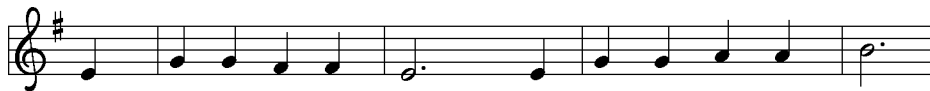
**\*HYMN Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters WOV “Blue”, 697**

**\*THE GREETING**

**P** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of  
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

**\*KYRIE**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring  
us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that  
by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS**

*In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

### **THE FIRST READING.....Genesis12:1-4a**

1The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

4aSo Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 121**

1I lift up my eyes | to the hills;  
from where is my | help to come?

**2My help comes | from the LORD,  
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

3The LORD will not let your | foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

**4Behold, the keep- | er of Israel  
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**

5the LORD watches | over you;  
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

**6the sun will not strike | you by day,  
nor the | moon by night.**

7The LORD will preserve you | from all evil  
and will | keep your life.

**8The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,  
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

**THE SECOND READING.....Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

1What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? 2For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 4Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. 5But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

13For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

16For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL.....John 3:1-17**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” 3Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 4Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” 5Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 8The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. 12If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

**\*HYMN This is the Spirit's Entry Now**

**LBW, "Green", 195**

**\*THE NICENE CREED**

**P Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith:**

**C We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition, “Merciful God/Receive our prayer.”*

**\*THE PEACE**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace with limited physical contact.*

**ANTHEM**      *God So Loved the World*      John Goss

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16). Perhaps the most well-known verse in the entire Bible. Naturally, countless composers have set the text to music. John Goss (1800-1880), an English organist and composer, wrote a beautiful chorale-style setting of this prominent passage. Goss was the organist at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, where he wrote the widely-used hymn tunes for “Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven” and “See Amid the Winter’s Snow.”

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

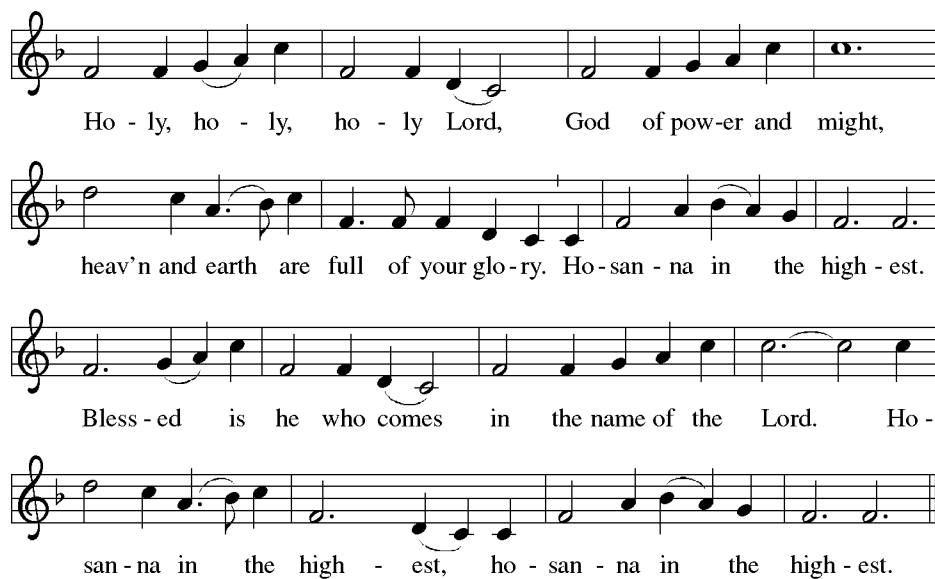
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew



our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**P** Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth.  
In mercy for our fallen world  
you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish,  
but have eternal life.  
We give thanks to you for the salvation  
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
Send now your Holy Spirit  
into our hearts and on these gifts  
that we may receive our Lord  
with a living faith  
as he comes to us  
in this his holy supper.

**C Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

**P** In the night in which he was betrayed  
our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: "Take and eat;  
this is my body given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper,  
 he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it to all to drink,  
 saying: "This cup is  
 the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people  
 for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me."

**\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **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 trespasses,**  
**as we forgive those**  
**who trespass against us;**  
**and lead us not into temptation,**  
**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**  
**and the power, and the glory,**  
**forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*LAMB OF GOD**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Persons may come forward to the chancel to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more “continuous” noting the following procedure:*

- *Communicants as directed by ushers are asked to come forward by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread.*
- *Once receiving the bread, communicants will proceed to one of two stations (left or right) to receive wine from the pouring chalice.*
- *After receiving wine, communicants will place the empty cup in the designated tray and return to their pew by way of the side aisles.*

*Please do not kneel at the rail.*

**P** Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

### **\*AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** **Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray. Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors  
and touch the world with your love.

**C** **Amen.**

### **\*THE BLESSING**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  
✠, give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

### **\*HYMN**

**Lift High The Cross**

**LBW, “Green”, 377**

**\*DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve in love.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Beach Spring* Wayne Wold

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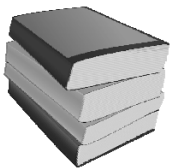
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**Prayer List:** Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Storm and Hurricane victims, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Ray Huff, Matt Fortin, Steve Beiber.



**READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?** Faith and Fellowship has temporarily “moved some books” from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!



**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:  
+In Loving Memory of Dr. Ted Larson and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Shipman by Mrs. Jane Larson.  
+In Loving Memory of our parents, Dick and Marty Pryor and Shuman and Lori Miller by Tom and Becky Pryor.  
+In Loving Memory of Robert and Anna Kuntz and Marty Kuntz by Ann and Charles Kuntz.

**WORSHIP LEADERS (March 5, 2023)**

Lectors	8:00 a.m.	Drew Hausmann
	10:30 a.m.	Gary Weber
Communion Assistants	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor
	10:30 a.m.	Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Shelby and Gary Weber
Altar Guild	March	Cindy Huff and Linda Rosini

**OUR STEWARDSHIP (February 26, 2023)**

Regular Offering	\$2,318.50
Plate Offering	10.00
Lent	278.00
Food Pantry	35.00
Sunday School Offering	7.00
Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Disaster Relief	50.00
Memorials	250.00
Synod Benevolence	5.00
Family Promise	30.00
Easter Flowers	76.50
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3160.00</b>

*Thank  
You*

**BULLETIN SPONSOR**

Thank You Michael Ochs for sponsoring this week's bulletin.



The St Mark's property committee would like to invite all church members to a Spring work day. Various tasks around the building need to be taken care of as we prepare for Easter and Spring! No special skills are needed; all we are asking for is some enthusiasm! We will serve coffee and breakfast

snacks! Please join us for fellowship and fun, and help us care for the church building we all treasure." I guess you would like a date on when this event will take place. Saturday, March 25, 2023 starting at 9 a.m.

Drew Haussmann and Ed Gair  
St Mark's Property Committee

## THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring! While our congregation's "can prediction" for a Philadelphia Eagles victory did not come to fruition, the United Churches Food Pantry did come up with a big win! Thanks to your generous donations, 187 cans of food were delivered to the food

pantry to be used in their outreach ministries. In addition, \$255.00 was collected and used to buy \$15.00 grocery store gift cards that the food pantry will discreetly share with those who are in the most need.



A special "Thank You" goes out to Little Lambs Preschool, who collected 65 canned goods for our Souper Bowl of Caring ministry. We were so happy to partner with you for this project, and appreciate your support.

Thank you, St. Mark's, for being a blessing to our Williamsport community through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Truly a WIN for all involved!

Faith and Fellowship Committee

# THIS WEEK IN YOUR CHURCH

March 6-March 12, 2023

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, March 6	Civic Chorus Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 p.m.
	Chamber Choir and Orchestra Rehearsal (Nave)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 7	Fry's Fire Inspection	9:00 a.m.
	Pastor's Lunch	Noon
	Evangelism and Fellowship Committee	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 8	Mid-Week Lent Service (Chapel)	12:15 p.m.
Thursday, March 9		
Friday, March 10	Pipe Organ Tuning	a.m. (TVA)
Saturday, March 11		
Sunday, March 12	Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

## BIRTHDAYS

Robert Shaible	March 6
Madison Walz	March 6
Robert Lynch	March 9
Patricia Thayer	March 9
Mason Peluso III	March 10
Michael Kinney	March 11

## ANNIVERSARY

Donna and Gary Clark	March 6
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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, March 6	<del>Safety Committee Meeting in Middle Lounge</del>	<del>11:00 a.m.</del>
	Meeting rescheduled to Monday, March 13, at 11 a.m.	
	Evangelism and Fellowship Committee	6:00 p.m.

If there is anything you would like to include in the "This Week In Your Church" please let the administrative assistant, Joe Baur, know at [jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org).



## THANK YOU.

Many thanks to you, my St. Mark's friends and family, for the festive celebration of my birthday on February 26. Your heartfelt congratulations, cards, gifts and of course the sticky buns, sandwiches, cupcakes, fruit and snacks were all very much appreciated. I will always remember with fondness my "46th" birthday!

Pastor Vasey

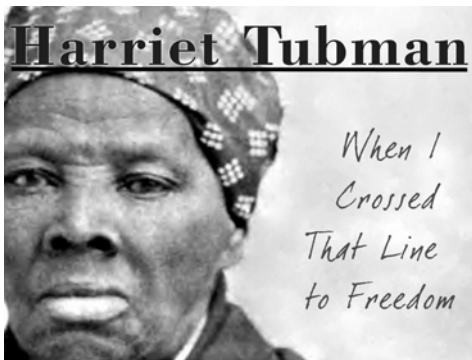
## COMMEMORATIONS



### **Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202**

*Tuesday, March 7, 2023*

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.



### **Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society**

*Friday, March 10, 2023*

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth

name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.