

God's Promise in Our Hearts

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me," explores the ancient prayer. This plea follows an eloquent confession: "Against you, you alone, have I sinned" (v. 4a).

Confession often makes us edgy and uncomfortable. Most of us have active inner critics that are sometimes harsh, or at least have loud, insistent voices of self-judgment. People familiar with the twelve-step recovery process learn the wisdom of taking a "fearless moral inventory," which has nothing to do with groveling.

Any change of heart begins with the willingness to tell the plain truth about our lives, with no excuses or glosses. It's opening up about the whole truth, not just the acceptable half. Confession sets us free, surrendering us to healing. It's difficult to face our failures and weaknesses, though, for it feels like we're giving up, like dying. But this is the necessary path to freedom, to restoration.

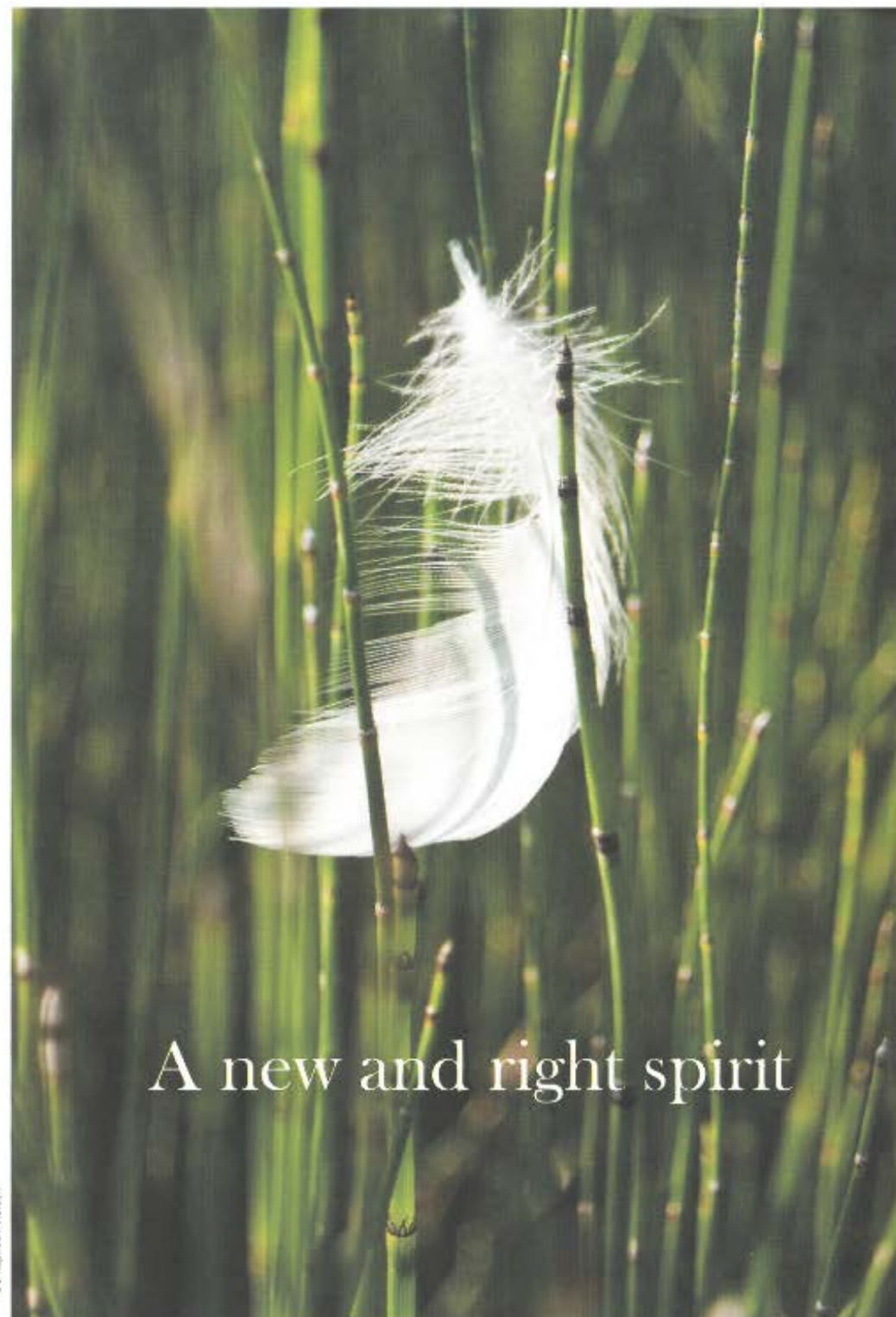
First, let's begin by praying for the willingness to tell the truth. God will help us. Possessing a willing spirit, we then must find a trustworthy sister or brother—someone to be God's ears to hear our whole, plain, honest-filled truth. Do we open the wounds we have suffered, and see those we have inflicted on others? How can we speak of the errors we have committed in this imperfect world?

When our confession is complete, our faithful listener can reassure us that despite our sin, we have never lost our original wholeness. The image of God we bear has not been destroyed. Such a mentor can support and encourage us to do the right thing by seeking forgiveness or making necessary restitution. In this, God clears the ground of our hearts for a new and right spirit, where we can see ourselves as God sees us and live in God's generous love.

— Anita Smith Buckwalter
Lansing Church of the Brethren
Lansing, Michigan

Text for today: "You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put *a new and right spirit* within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit" (Psalm 51:6-12, NR5V).
Bible readings for today: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 (10) or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

03-18-18, Fifth Sunday in Lent. Printed in the USA
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A new and right spirit

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
at Worship March 18, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (8:30) Standin' in the Need of Prayer *Traditional*
Nobody Knows De Trouble I've Seen arr. *John Thompson*
Be Still, My Soul *Jean Sibelius*
I Must Tell Jesus arr. *John Schaum*
I'd Rather Have Jesus arr. *Anthony Burger*
(11:00) Hymns of Confession / Repentance *HWB*
520-533

CALL TO WORSHIP Michael Hostetter

***HYMN # 484** *From time beyond my memory* TRUSTING MEMORY

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER Jeff Carr
Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle
of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshiping near us.
After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

YORFF ENSEMBLE (11:00)

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S TIME (11:00) Jeff Carr
Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time
of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions.
Following the Children's Story, all children preschool through 5th grade
are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Agape Room.

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.

Temper My Spirit, O Lord *Grace W. Conant*

(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

Meditation on HAMBURG *John Barr*

("When I Survey the Wondrous Cross")

SCRIPTURE READING John 12:20-33 *NRSV*

ANTHEM (11:00) When I Survey the Wondrous Cross arr. *Dan Forrest*
Maria Lorcás, violin
Michael Overman, drum

SERMON "Troubled Souls" Jeff Carr

RESPONDING

REFLECTIONS (8:30) Music for contemplation, followed by conversation.
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind arr. *Donna Williams*

***HYMN # 527** *Lord Jesus, think on me* SOUTHWELL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Silence

Praying with the Psalm

Psalm 51:1-12

concluding with The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done in 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.

***HYMN # 558** *When the storms of life are raging* STAND BY ME

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (8:30) Guide My Feet arr. *Wendell Whalum*
(11:00) Hymnus *Wilbur Held*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

March 18-24, 2018 (All events are p.m. unless noted)

This is a church events calendar and does not include all building events use.
Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS through the church office.

Today	9 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	9:30 & 10:30 a.m.	Blood Pressure Clinic	Office Reception
		Children's Worship during Worship at 11	
	Noon	Refugee Committee	Lounge
		Youth Hike	
Tues.	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	2:00	Pastor's Book Study	Lounge
	5:15	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	5:30	Wednesday Night Meal	Social Hall
		<i>Catering provided by Nikki (May) Watson</i>	
		<i>Menu: Chicken Provencal, Parmesan Potatoes,</i>	
		<i>Glazed Baby Carrots, Sunshine Salad, Banana Pudding</i>	
		<i>Vegetarian: Couscous Provencal Kids: Chicken Tenders</i>	
		<i>Suggested Donation: \$10 Adults / \$5 Kids</i>	
	5:45	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape Room
	6:30	YOrffs Rehearsal	Room # 35
	7:00	Board of Administration	Seekers Room
Thurs.	11 a.m.	Memorial Service for Jesse Robertson	Sanctuary
	6:30	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Fri.	6:00	Brethren Student Movement – Social Hall / Youth Room	
Fri.-Sat.		Senior High Youth Lock-In	
Sat.	4:00	Easter Egg Dyeing & Craft Event	Social Hall

NEXT SUNDAY– March 25, 2018 – *Sixth Sunday in Lent*

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Preaching: Pastor Jeff Carr

Sermon: “Anointing and RE-Membering”

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11, 14-15

Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms

Easter Egg Hunt – Noon – Meet in Social Hall

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*An inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus
and live the love of God.*

Our Mission...

As an inclusive community of faith, we commit ourselves to embody the love of God and to share our diverse lives and gifts with each other and the world. Through faith formation, worship, mission, and fellowship we boldly proclaim the peace and love of Christ. Together we work for justice, extend grace, and partner with God to offer abundant life, healing, and hope to our community and the world.

Our Values...

*Sharing life together and including all persons in our common life.
Growing in faith, compassion, and understanding.
Serving one another and our neighbor's good.
Sharing the love of God and the God that is love.*

PASTORAL MINISTRY STAFF

Jeff Carr – Senior Pastor

Chris Zepp – Associate Pastor

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

Fortunato Correa – Custodian

Phil Flory – Treasurer

Karissa Hunt – Interim Financial Secretary

Shannon Puffenbarger – Administrative Assistant

Leon Rhodes – Head Teller

PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Kathleen Arndt – Child Care Center Administrator

John Barr – Organist

Jim Benedict – Bell Choir Director

Jeanie Eye – Christian Education Director

Mary Beth Flory – Pianist

Marianne Houff – Children's Choir Director

Ellsworth Neff – Sound, Light, Video Coordinator

Curtis Nolley – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

Clarke & Hope Staton – Youth Ministry Coordinators

CONTACT INFORMATION

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

www.bwcob.org / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.

All Are Welcome brochures, available in the pews and literature rack, list specific Christian Education opportunities and locations.

PARKING ASSISTANCE: 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a "cry room" for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

Fellowship Host – Mac Bair

Pianist (8:30) – Loreen May

Head Usher – Palmer Lee Berry

Sound & Light Technician –

Decorators – Dwyann & Tony Stovall

Deacon Caregiver – Andrea Miracle

Van Driver – Teshome Molalenge

Worship Leader – Michael Hostetter

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 3/11/18

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 16 11:00 – 219 Sunday School: 123

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$13,334.75
Loose Offering	637.50
Miscellaneous	113.55
Roof Repair	1.68
Spring Potted Easter Flowers	255.00
Wednesday Night Meals	327.00
Brethren Student Movement	100.00
Women's Fellowship	100.00
Bob McFadden Memorial Fund	50.00
Wayne Judd Memorial Fund	1,120.00
Elaine Smith Memorial Fund	400.00
Jennifer Swett Memorial Fund	25.00
Janet Sohn Memorial Fund	25.00

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: John Newton, *alt.*

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
Were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

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SPRING POTTED FLOWERS FOR EASTER

To order: Please use the envelopes (*available in the literature rack in the Greeting Hall*) to include information and money. These are due in the church office by Wednesday, March 28. Suggested cost per plant: \$10.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT CROSSROADS VBMHC

Volunteers are needed to assist with a thorough cleaning of the school house at Crossroads Valley Brethren Mennonite Heritage Center. Jobs to be completed include moving furniture out the school house, wiping down benches, cleaning windows, loading chairs to take up to revival trailer canopy, prepping flower beds for mulching, and seeding bare spots in the grass. The project will likely be completed on March 26 and/or 27. If you would be willing to help, please contact Leland Harding at 540.860.8099 or lelandharding1979@gmail.com.

Psalm 51:1-12 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Psalm 51

Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;^[a]
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^[b] spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing^[c] spirit.

John 12:20-33 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Jesus Speaks about His Death

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^[a] to myself.” ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.