



Lent 5

Me & You & Covenant New

March 18, 2018

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Focus statement: In the new covenant there are no betweens and no go-betweens. We no longer have need of a go-between mediator; however, like the disciples, we may serve as go-betweens by pointing people directly to Christ. The promise is extended beyond the direct descendants, drawing all people to a relationship between Me (God) and You (the people).

Summary statement for bulletin: Between Me & You, in a new covenant, God's promise and God's love grow in our hearts.

Song suggestions

HWB 389 Take My Life

HWB 407 We Are People of God's Peace

HWB 483 O God, Who Gives Us Life

STJ 3 Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him

STJ 81 Take, O Take Me as I Am

STS 60 Come to Me, Come to Us

STS 63 Herr, füll mich neu (God, Fill Me Now)

God's Love Is for Everybody by Bryan Moyer Suderman

I Will Bless You by Bryan Moyer Suderman

Between Me & You theme song

Between me and you,
the days are coming when here's what I'll do:
I'm going to plant my words within you,
I choose to be there with you.

Call to worship

Leader: I see you, familiar faces, visitors, and guests. What brings you here?

People: **We want to see Jesus.**

Leader: I see you, all who are here for the first time, and all who have returned. What brings you here?

People: **We want to see Jesus.**

Leader: I see you and know that each one of you has been invited by God to this house of worship. Thank you for coming. Open your eyes and your hearts, for together we are here with Jesus. Praise the Lord.

Confession

Beloved Protector and Teacher, we need guidance, and sometimes we remember to ask for it.

But even as we reach for your hand, we rush off in our own direction.

We barely listen to the rules we break.

We like to remind ourselves, wherever we are, that you are with us.

We forget the proper response: that to serve you, we must follow you.

We put conditions on your love,

because we don't want to go to the uncomfortable places where we see ourselves in the other.

Forgive us.

Hold us close and teach us again to truly live as you love.



Words of assurance

Thus says the Lord God, “I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Between Me & You enactment (children’s feature)

Supplies: a large scarf, sheet, or blanket that can be used to divide the group in two

Action and noticing

- Have two volunteers hold up a scarf, sheet, or blanket so that the group is divided in two, and have each half face the scarf.
- Ask the group: What do you notice? How well can you see each other?
- Then ask: What would help you to see better?
- Remove the barriers.

Wondering

- What are some of the barriers that can come between me and you? What are some things that come between people and make it difficult to get along or to see each other’s point of view? What are some barriers that come between us and God?
- I wonder how we can deal with some of these barriers. I wonder who could help us.
- The text from Jeremiah says that God will write God’s words on our hearts, and will have a relationship with us without any barriers that divide us from God. In fact, God gave us a new covenant so that we can be confident in approaching God without barriers standing in our way.

Responding through song: “For Me, For You”

God’s promises are for me, for you, a covenant that’s new!
God’s love is for me, for you, a covenant that’s new!

Sermon seeds

Between

Philip and Andrew serve as a go-between between the Greeks and Jesus (John 12:20-33)

Anticipated shift between old and new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33; Hebrews 5:5-10)

- Throughout Lent we have explored the importance of covenants. This week a new covenant is foretold that will fulfill God’s work with humanity, a covenant that will sustain where previous ones did not.
- This week recognizes a change, something new, the approach of some work God is doing. Jesus acknowledges the role of death in bringing about this new covenant.
- In the same way Philip and Andrew function as a go-between between the Greeks and Jesus, we as disciples are also called to make a way for those who wish to see Jesus.

Benediction

You may choose to speak this benediction to one another by echoing: after the leader reads each line, the congregation repeats it.

We are people of God.
We go in God’s love
to extend God’s love
and live God’s promise.