

Epiphany 6C
February 16, 2025



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PERRY, FL

GATHERING (W-3.0101 & W-3.0201)

PREPARATORY PRAYER (pray upon entering the sanctuary) **Eternal God,**
whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch:
help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather, and by our lives as
they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE & INTROIT (W-3.0101 & W-3.0201)

“Bunnessan” Traditional Gaelic Melody Arr. by W. Elmo Mercer

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PASSING OF FRIENDSHIP PADS/SESSION SHARING

(W-3.0101 & W-3.0201)

We stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP (W-3.0202 & W-3.0203)

L Come, come, whoever you are. **Wanderer, worshipper, lover of**
leaving — it doesn’t matter, Ours is not a caravan of despair. **Come,**
even if you have broken your vow a hundred times.



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re-ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
“Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

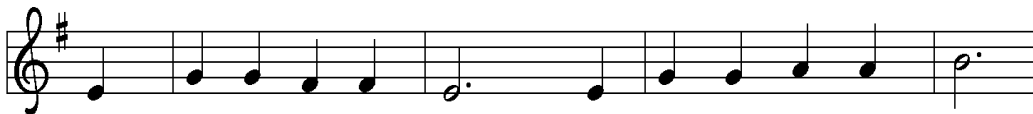
CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (W-3.0205)

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. (*brief silence for reflection*)

Compassionate Christ, we are slow to love and to serve, we seek to have our own needs met before caring for the needs of others; We fail to give ourselves, and choose instead to preserve our safety, our comfort and our privilege. Forgive us, heal us, and teach us to live lives of compassion following your example. Amen.

KYRIE (W-3.0205)



- 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!

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI (W-3.0205)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY (W-3.0204)

P We pray: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD (W-3.0301)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (W-3.0302)

L We pray: **Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find wisdom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We sit.

FIRST READING **Jeremiah 17:5-10** (W-3.0303)

L ⁵Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? ¹⁰I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Holy Wisdom. **Holy Word.**

PSALM **Psalm 1** (*we say responsively by whole verse*) (W-3.0304)

L 1 Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law, they meditate day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

4 The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

6 for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (W-3.0303)

L ¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Holy Wisdom. **Holy Word.**

We rise.

GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26 (W-3.0303)

P The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke the 6th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

SERMON (W-3.0305)

“Don't Got It Alone” Rev. Pr. J. David Bryant

We rise.

Leader or All

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; they shall in -
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; they are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, all be -

Dsus D7 Gsus G Gsus G

king - dom of God. Blest are they,
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who
 shall be theirs. Blest are they, the
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
 cause of me. Re - jice, be glad;

D C Dsus D Gsus G

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
 pure of heart; they shall see God.
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain All C D7 G D Em G C G

Re - jice and be glad! Bless - ed are you;

Am A D C D7 Em Em7

ho - ly are you! Re - jice and be glad!

C Dsus D C G

Yours is the king - dom of God!

THE NICENE CREED (W-3.0306 & F-2.01)

L Let us profess the faith, saying: **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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

We sit or stand.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (W-3.0308)

P With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

L *(brief silence)* O God, for your holy church, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the world and all creation, that you nourish your people like a watered garden, empowering us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For victims of oppression, that you deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For all who suffer addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illnesses. For the sick and the recovering, and for all on our prayer lists and for those we name before you now aloud upon our lips or silently within our hearts. *(pause)* God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For our congregation and its ministries, transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For all who have died, that their hope in you, is fulfilled in resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P God of life, death, and resurrection, we are grateful for life and all its gifts. Increase in us the stuff that life is made of: faith, hope, and love, but especially love; that we may abide with you eternally through Jesus Christ, our lover and our lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE (W-3.0411)

P The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

EUCCHARIST (W-30409--W-3.0411)

We sit.

OFFERTORY (W-3.0411)

L Freely you have received, freely give. Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (W-3.0411) *“Jesus Loves Me”*

DOXOLOGY (W-3.0411)

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea- tures
here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (W-3.0411)

L Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We sit or stand.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE (W-3.0412)

P Come to the table of mercy. Come and meet Christ, for we are his Body.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (W-3.0412)

P The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, 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.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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 for 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us (✠) gathered here, and (✠) on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER (W-3.0304)

(SUNG TO THE MALOTTE TUNE)

As Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Fa-ther, which art in heav-en, hal-low-ed be
Thy name. Thy king-dom come, Thy will be
done on earth as it is in heav-en.
Give us this day our dai-ly bread, and for-give us our debts as
we for-give our debt-ors. And lead us not in-to temp-ta-ion, but de-
liv-er us from e-vil, for Thine is the King-dom and the
Pow-er and the Glo-ry, for-ev-er. A - men.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD (W-3.0413)

P The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

During the Lamb of God, communion servers come forward to the Table.

LAMB OF GOD (W-3.0414)



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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (W-3.0414)

P The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please notify Pr. Bryant when you reach the Table.

COMMUNION SPECIAL MUSIC “*Heal Our Land*” Leah Metzger

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
 all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The first system contains the first three lines of lyrics. The second system contains the remaining three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (W-3.0414 & W-3.0501)

L *We pray:* We praise you, O Lord, and give you thanks with all our hearts, in the company of your people. You are gracious and merciful; you provide food for those who worship you; you are ever mindful of your covenant. May your praise endure forever! **Amen.**

SENDING (W-3.05)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (W-3.0501)

P The blessing of the † holy, triune God, be with you now and always.
Alleluia!

1 I was sink-ing deep in sin, far from the peace-ful shore, ver-y deep-ly
 2 All my heart to him I give, ev-er to him I'll cling, in his bless-ed
 3 Souls in dan-ger, look a-bove, Je-sus com-plete-ly saves; he will lift you

stained with-in, sink-ing to rise no more; but the mas-ter of the sea
 pres-ence live, ev-er his prais-es sing; love so might-y and so true
 by his love out of the an-gry waves; he's the mas-ter of the sea,

heard my de-spair-ing cry, from the wa-ters lift-ed me, now safe am I.
 mer-its my soul's best songs; faith-ful lov-ing ser-vice, too, to him be-longs.
 bil-lows his will o-bey; he your Sav-i-or true will be: be saved to-day.

Refrain

Love lift-ed me! e-ven me! Love lift-ed me! e-ven me! When noth-ing

1 else could help, love lift-ed me. 2 love lift-ed me.

DISMISSAL (W-3.0503)

P Go in peace. Be the presence of Jesus. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE “*Sunshine In My Soul*” Music by J. R. Sweney Arr. by W. Elmo Mercer

Leading Worship: Rev. Pr. J. David Bryant, Minister; Margaret Poppell, Liturgist; Leah Metzger, Accompanist & Director

Notes & Announcements

- **Church Office** closed Monday, February 17th
- **Session** meeting Tuesday, February 18th at 5:30 pm
- **Ushers** for February 23rd: Warren Gregory, Polly Kincaid, Zach Wiggins, Paul Wiggins, Steve Brown
- **Liturgist** for February 23rd: Cheryl Gregory
- **FPC website** www.firstpresperry.org
- Send **prayer requests** to prayer@firstpresperry.org or contact Jeanne Hilgendorf



Sunday School Classes will begin March 2nd - May 25th
Pastor Bryant will be teaching Men's class and Dianna Sandonato will be teaching Ladies class.

DRIVING ASSISTANCE

Notice to FPC Family:

Are you in need of driving assistance to appointments or to run errands? If so, there are church members who will assist you!

Please call: Doris Putnal, Driving Assistance Coordinator, at 850-843-1394 and she will link you with a willing volunteer.

Nancy Bell, Moderator
Congregational Care Committee

FPC PRAYER LIST

TOGETHER, WE PRAY FOR:

DIANNA, FLU

CHERYL, BACK

ROMMES FAMILY

PRAISE FROM HELBERG'S

TRAVELLING MERCIES FOR MEMBERS

NURSING HOME, LOCAL

GOVERNMENT

CHUCK ECKEL

SANDI HILGENDORF

TEACHERS

MARGIE RAWLS

BLUE CREEK CHURCH

PRESBY BIBLE STUDIES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUPPER TEAMS

JOHN DAVID & HARRIET BRYANT

THE HOMELESS

CULBREATH'S

CHERYL RICKETSON, REHAB

RITA BENOIT, OPTIONS

RON POPPELL, ONGOING

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR OUR CHURCH.

Session Committee leaders

Administration-Bobby Harper, Michael McMillan

Christian Education-Martha Davis

Clerk-Cindy Brown

Congregational Care-Nancy Bell

Fellowship-Juanita Ratliff

Finance-Cindy Brown

Mission/Outreach-Jamie Poppell

Worship/Music-Marilyn Culpepper, Zachary Wiggins