

**EPIPHANY 7C**  
**February 23, 2025**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**PERRY, FL**

# GATHERING

P -PASTOR, L- LITURGIST, **BOLD -ALL**

**PRAYER** (TO BE PRAYED SILENTLY UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY)

We pray: **Eternal God, you have called us to be members of one body. Join us with those who in all times and places have praised your name, that, with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of your church, and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**PRELUDE** *“What Shall I Give Thee, Master?”* Music, H. Grimes Arr., W. Mercer

**INTROIT** *“Lord, I Want To Be A Christian”*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/PASSING OF FRIENDSHIP PADS/SESSION SHARING**

*We stand.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L In this sacred space, **trust in the Holy Spirit.**  
On this sabbath day, **take delight in Jesus Christ.**  
Among the faithful, **commit your way to the Lord.**  
Worship the Lord with gladness!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P We pray: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

(Asus) (Am) (G) (F#m) (D)  
 Csus Cm Bb Am F



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

(Em) (D/F#) (G) (A) (Am7) (D)  
 Gm F/A Bb C Cm7 F



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com-mu - nion bread, in Christ's com-mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(silence for reflection)*

Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we succumb to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus has opened the doors for service to each one of us. We have been freed from our fears and doubts. Rejoice! In Jesus' name, we are forgiven and healed. Amen.

## GLORIA PATRI *(we sing)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

L We pray: Lord, through your Word always make us alert, and by your Word strengthen us to stand before the Son of Man. Amen.

*We sit.*

## FIRST READING                      Genesis 45:3-11, 15

L        <sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.” <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.”” <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Holy Wisdom. **Holy Word**

**PSALM**                      **Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40**                      *(we say responsively by whole verse)*

L                      <sup>1</sup>Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,

**<sup>2</sup>for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.**

<sup>3</sup>Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

**<sup>4</sup>Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

**<sup>6</sup>He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

**<sup>8</sup>Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.**

<sup>9</sup>For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

**<sup>10</sup>Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.**

<sup>11</sup>But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

**<sup>39</sup>The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup>The Lord helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

## **SECOND READING      1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

L      35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” 36 Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that

is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. 42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. 50 What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Holy Wisdom. **Holy Word.**

*We Stand.*

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 6:27-38**

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

[Jesus said:] 27 “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away

your goods, do not ask for them again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37 “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

**“Just Love”**

**Pr. J. David Bryant**

*We stand.*

**SERMON HYMN**

**My Hope is Built on Nothing Less GTG 353**



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and  
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un-  
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the  
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

righ - teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but  
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my  
 whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he  
 him be found, dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

*Refrain*

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all  
 then is all my hope and stay. less to stand be - fore the throne.

oth - er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

L Let us confess the faith of our baptism, saying: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the † resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*We sit or stand.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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)* God of suffering service, grant to your church faithful leaders who have the hearts of servants, and who will gently lead your people into love for you and service to their neighbors. Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

God of gentle justice, raise up servant leaders in every nation who will govern with truth and guide their people with fairness and equity. Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

God of tender compassion, hear the cries of all who suffer and who are contending with sickness and disease especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud upon our lips or silently within our hearts. *(pause)* Lay upon them your gentle hand of healing. Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

God of all goodness, guide the work of our congregation, that a pervasive unity of purpose would guide all discernments, ministries, and missions. Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

God of comforting hope, tend to those who are grieving, that their mourning may be tempered with joy. Bring us at length, with all our blessed dead, to the joy of your heavenly realm. Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

P God of abundant mercy, you alone can turn evil into good, sorrow into rejoicing, and death into everlasting life. Teach us your way of grace: to meet hatred with kindness, to answer curses with blessing, to love without holding back, to give without thought of return; all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

L As Christ has taught us, so we boldly pray: **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 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.**

## **THE PEACE**

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

*We sit.*

## **OFFERTORY**

L With gladness, let us present the offering of our life and labor to the Lord.

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Peace Medley” Arr. By Russell Mauldin

### DOXOLOGY

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.

*We stand.*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

L God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless us with joy, anoint us with compassion, and send us in love. **Amen.**

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*  
 watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,  
 Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

## DISMISSAL

L        Go in peace. Live in hope. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** *“Leaning On the Everlasting Arms”* Music, Showalter Arr., Mercer

**Leading Worship:** Rev. Pr. J. David Bryant, Minister; Cheryl Gregory, Liturgist; Leah Metzger, Accompanist & Director

## Notes & Announcements



FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Paul and Cathy Wiggins in honor of their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

- **Ushers** for March 2nd: David Culpepper, Jeanne Hilgendorf, Warren Hilgendorf, Dianna Sandonato, Marilyn Culpepper
- **Liturgist** for March 2nd: Susan Lincoln
- FPC **website** [www.firstpresperry.org](http://www.firstpresperry.org)
- Send **prayer requests** to [prayer@firstpresperry.org](mailto: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.



## **Lenten Supper & Devotion**

In keeping with the penitential season of Lent, Wednesday suppers will be a simple meal of soup and

bread. Pastor John David Bryant will lead a short Lenten Devotional during these evenings. Wednesday night suppers during Lent will be March 5<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup>, March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and April 9<sup>th</sup>. Come at 5:45 pm for a time of fellowship and the meal will be served at 6:00 pm.

### **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**

## FAT TUESDAY

March 4, 2025

The Fellowship  
Committee invites  
you to a Fat  
Tuesday Dinner in  
the fellowship hall  
on Tuesday, March  
4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm, as  
we prepare for the  
season of Lent.

The dinner will include fresh pancakes, breakfast casseroles, and king cake. The evening will conclude with a brief Dedication and Burning of the Ashes. Come and enjoy an evening of food and fellowship!

### 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



## FPC PRAYER LIST

*TOGETHER, WE PRAY FOR:*

*CATHY WIGGINS*

*JEANNE RAULERSON*

*DIANNA SANDONATO, FLU*

*CHERYL EVERETT, 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.*