

**LENT 2C**  
**MARCH 16, 2025**



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

# GATHERING

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

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

We pray: **Eternal God, you who breathed the spirit of life within me. Draw out of me the light and life you created through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**PRELUDE** “*One of God's Days (Medley)*” Arr. by W. Elmo Mercer

**INTROIT** “*There Is a Longing in Our Hearts*”

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

*We stand.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L The Lord is our light,  
**light no darkness can overcome.**  
Jesus Christ is our salvation.  
**Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P We pray: God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly  
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his  
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

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

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(silence for reflection)*

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected injustice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome us home. In ✠ Christ our sins are forgiven. We have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

**GLORIA PATRI**

*(the Gloria is omitted during Lent)*

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

L We pray: **Prepare our hearts, O God, to receive your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own. Amen.**

*We sit.*

**FIRST READING**

**Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

L 1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

3 And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” 4 But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” 5 He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” 6 And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. 7 Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” 8 But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” 9 He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” 10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## Psalm 27 *(we say responsively by whole verse)*

L <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> **When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup> **‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’ Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

<sup>10</sup> **If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.**

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

<sup>12</sup> **Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.**

<sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> **Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

## **SECOND READING Philippians 3:17—4:1**

L 17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. 18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. 19 Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21 He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*We Stand.*

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 13:31-35**

P The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter:  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” 32 He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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

*We sit.*

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**Ruling Elder Paul Wiggins**



*We stand.*

**SERMON HYMN**

**Eternal Father, Strong to Save**

**GTG 8**

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the  
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -  
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who did brood up - on the cha - os  
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, all trav - elers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its  
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and  
wild and rude, and bade its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we  
calm a - mid its rage did sleep: O hear us when we  
gave, for fierce con - fu - sion, peace: O hear us when we  
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

## 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 Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

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. Lord of Lent, **renew our lives.**

God of gentle justice, raise up righteous leaders in every nation who will govern with truth and guide their people with fairness and equity. Lord of Lent, **renew our lives.**

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. Lord of Lent, **renew our lives.**

God of all goodness, you long to gather your church under your wings guide the work of our congregation, that a pervasive unity of purpose would guide all discernments, ministries, and missions. Lord of Lent, **renew our lives.**

God of comforting hope, tend to those who are grieving, that their mourning may be tempered with joy. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. Lord of Lent, **renew our lives.**

P Loving God, you save all who seek refuge in you. Grant that we who know your salvation may walk always in your light, take courage in your faithfulness, and rejoice in your astounding goodness to us. Through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. **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 "Take My Yoke Upon You"

Words by J. Paul Williams Music by Douglas Nolan

### LENTEN DOXOLOGY

Praise God through-out these for - ty days. Praise

Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spir-it who im -

parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A - men.

*We stand.*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

L Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation; through your goodness we have this money to offer, the fruit of our labor and of the skills you have given us. Take us and our possessions to do your work in the world.  
**Blessed be God forever.**

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

SENDING HYMN

You Who Dwell in the Shelter

GTG 43

*Leader or All*

1 You who dwell in the shel - ter of the Lord, who a -

G D/F# F

bide in his shad - ow for life, say to the Lord, "My

Dm F Gm Asus A

ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

*Refrain*  
All D Em

And he will raise you up on ea - gles' wings, bear you on the

A7 D D7/F# G

breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun,

A Bm F#m Em7 A Dsus D *Fine*

and hold you in the palm of his hand.

*Leader or All* G D/F#

2 The snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, and

G D/F# F

fam - ine will bring you no fear: un - der his wings, your

ref - uge, his faith - ful - ness your shield. *to Refrain*

*G*  
*Leader or All* *D/F#*

3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, nor the

*G* *D/F#* *F*

ar-row that flies by day; though thou - sands fall a -

*Dm* *F* *Gm* *Asus* *A*  
*to Refrain*

bout you, near you it shall not come.

*G* *D/F#*

*Leader or All*

4 For to his an - gels he's giv - en a com - mand to

*G* *D/F#* *F*

guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

*Gm7* *Am* *Gm7* *Asus* *A*  
*to Refrain*

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

## DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE** "Revive Us Again" Words by W. P. Mackay Music by J. J. Husband Arr. by W. E. Mercer

**Leading Worship:** Paul Wiggins, Elder; Amalia Barrett, Liturgist; Leah Metzger, Accompanist & Director

## **Notes & Announcements**

- Session meeting March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm
- Shepherds meeting March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm
- **Ushers** for March 23rd: Bobby Harper, Martha Davis, Mike Perrine, Marcy Fletcher, Robin Walker
- **Liturgist** for March 23rd: Chuck Eckel
- FPC website [www.firstpresperry.org](http://www.firstpresperry.org)
- Send **prayer requests** to [prayer@firstpresperry.org](mailto:prayer@firstpresperry.org) or contact Jeanne Hilgendorf



### **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.

## FPC PRAYER LIST

*TOGETHER, WE PRAY FOR:*

*ALICE FARRELL*

*CATHY WIGGINS*

*JEANNE RAULERSON*

*DIANNA SANDONATO, FLU*

*CHERYL EVERETT, BACK*

*ROMMES FAMILY*

*PRAISE FROM HELBERG'S*

*TRAVELLING MERCIES FOR MEMBERS*

*NURSING HOME, LOCAL*

*GOVERNMENT*

*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*