

LENT 3C
MARCH 23, 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 “*Lenten Prayer*” By Franklin Ritter

INTROIT “*There Is A Longing In Our Hearts*”

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PASSING OF FRIENDSHIP PADS/SESSION SHARING

We stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L Thirsty, our hearts crave living water.

Hungry, our souls ache to be satisfied.

Weary, our minds are tired by thoughts

that do not come from God.

Thirsty, hungry, and weary,

let us worship the God of love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P We pray: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN **There's a Wideness in God's Mercy** GTG 435

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness
 2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures

of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal

which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more

sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-

where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
 flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

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)

Compassionate God, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. 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

Isaiah 55:1-9

L 1 Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. 4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

PSALM

Psalm 63:1-8

(we say responsively by whole verse)

L ¹ O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² **So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.**

³ Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

⁴ **So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

⁵ My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

⁶ **when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**

⁷ for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

⁸ **My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

L 1 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and

they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

We Stand.

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

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

1 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ 8 He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Repent!

Pr. J. David Bryant

We stand.

SERMON HYMN

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

GTG 394



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come, with all your lov - ing - kind - ness;
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as we pray, and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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 Your glory and power, O God, surround us in the sanctuary. We lift up our hands and call on your name. We are your people, thirsty for the living water you alone can give. When we consider how you have helped us, giving us a spring that gushes up to eternal life, we cling to you, singing praises with joyful lips; through 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.**

We sit.

OFFERTORY

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *"In The Garden"* Words and Music by C. A. Miles

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

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.

DISMISSAL & SHARING OF THE PEACE

L The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Prelude on "My Savior's Love"* Anna Laura Page
Based on the tune by Charles H. Gabriel

Leading Worship: Paul Wiggins, Elder; Chuck Eckel, Liturgist; Leah Metzger, Accompanist & Director

Notes & Announcements

- **Ushers** for March 30th: Warren Gregory, Polly Kincaid, Zach Wiggins, Paul Wiggins, Steve Brown
- **Liturgist** for March 30th: Zach Wiggins
- **FPC website** www.firstpresperry.org
- Send **prayer requests** to 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 5th, March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd, and April 9th. 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:

HARRIETT BRYANT REQUEST PRAYERS FOR ED SCHWARTZ DIAGNOSED WITH A BRAIN BLEED

MARCY FLETCHER, PRAYERS FOR DEAR FRIEND AND FORMER CHURCH MEMBER, KAY AIKEN HOSPITALIZED

MARNIE HELBERG, PRAYERS FOR THEIR NIECE HAVING DENTAL SURGERY

WARREN GREGORY, PRAYERS FOR HIS BROTHER MICHAEL, RECOVERY

JALEN ALBRITTON, RECOVERY

ALICE FARRELL

CATHY WIGGINS

JEANNE RAULERSON

DIANNA SANDONATO

CHERYL EVERETT, BACK

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