

LENT 4C
MARCH 30, 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 “*A Lenten Prayer*” By Lani Smith

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PASSING OF FRIENDSHIP PADS/SESSION SHARING

We stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L We are ambassadors for Christ.

God has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation.

We gather as God’s beloved family to worship God and offer our praise.

Let us join our hearts in song and in prayer.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P We pray: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, thy shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - ered there for me;
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
 the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

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

Joshua 5:9-12

L 9 The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho.

11 On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

PSALM

Psalm 32 *(we say responsively by whole verse)*

L ¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² **Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’, and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁸ **I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ **Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

L 16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

We Stand.

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke the 15th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

3 So he told them this parable: 11b “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

17 But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for

this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!
And they began to celebrate.

25 “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

29 But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31 Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

We sit.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

“Just Love”

Pr. J. David Bryant

We stand.

SERMON HYMN You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd GTG 274



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep-herd. You, Lord, are both
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun-tain, stripped of might up -
3 You, who walk each day be - side us, sit in pow - er
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our

(Dm) (G) (C) (F) (Em) (Dm) (Am)
Gm C F B^b Am Gm Dm



prince and slave. You, peace-mak - er and sword-bring - er
on the cross, shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
at God's side. You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - tory;

(B^b) (F) (E) (A/C[#]) (Dm)
E^b B^b A D/F[#] Gm



of the way you took and gave. You, the ev - er - last - ing
beg-gared by a sol - dier's toss, you, the ev - er - last - ing
have a love that reach - es wide. You, the ev - er - last - ing
wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er - last - ing

(Am) (G) (Am) (Dm) (Em) (Am)
Dm C Dm Gm Am Dm



in - stant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.
in - stant; you who are both gift and cost.
in - stant; you, who are our pil - grim guide.
in - stant; you, who are our death and life.

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 Gracious God, seeker of the lost: draw your children back to your loving embrace, restore us to our inheritance as daughters and sons, and reconcile our hearts to you, that we may become ambassadors of your reconciling love to all the world. 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.**

We sit.

OFFERTORY

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *“You Raise Me Up with Be Still, My Soul”*

Words and Music by R. Lovland and B. Graham Arr. by T. Fettke

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 *Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound!* GTG 649

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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 *"Medley for Lent"* By Robert W. Thygerson

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

Notes & Announcements

- Administration meeting Tuesday, April 8th at 4 pm
- Worship meeting Tuesday, April 8th at 6 pm
- Congregational Care meeting Wednesday, April 9th at 4pm
- Christian Education meeting Thursday, April 10th at 10:30 am
- Finance committee meeting Friday, April 11th at 11am
- **Ushers** for April 6th: Warren Gregory, Polly Kincaid, Zach Wiggins, Paul Wiggins, Steve Brown
- **Liturgist** for April 6th: Sandi Hilgendorf
- 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.



During Holy Week, First Presbyterian Church will have the following opportunities for worship and fellowship. Please join us as we prepare to celebrate our Risen Savior.



April 13, 2025} Palm Sunday Service @ 11:00 a.m.

April 13, 2025} Palm Sunday Lessons & Carols @ 6:00 pm

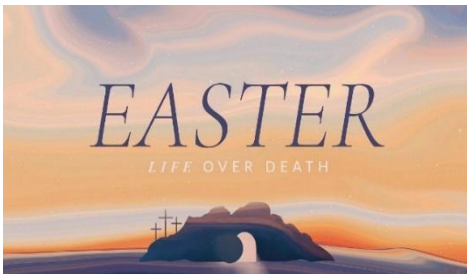
April 14th–18th Holy Week service is held at FUMC at 6:45am. **First Presbyterian will give the message on Thursday, April 19th**

April 17, 2025} Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:00 pm

April 18, 2025} Good Friday Service (Tenebrae) @ 6:00 pm



Saturday, April 19, 2025} Easter Egg Hunt @ 5:00pm & Dinner with Pound Cake Cookoff @ 6:00 pm



April 20, 2025} **EASTER SUNDAY**

Sunrise Service @ 8:00 am & Breakfast @ 9:00 am

Easter Morning Service @ 11:00 am

(breakfast is provided)

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