

Lent 5C
April 6, 2025



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PERRY, FL

GATHERING

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

PREPARATORY PRAYER (prayed upon entering the sanctuary) **Loving God,**
help me to live solely to glorify you. **Make me a rainbow in someone**
else's cloud, causing me to point to the freedom only found in Jesus
Christ. Amen.

PRELUDE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PASSING OF FRIENDSHIP PADS/SESSION SHARING

We stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L With our ancestors we recall God's great works.

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice.

With our ancestors we pray

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

With our ancestors we rejoice

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall
come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Let us worship God, in this community and in the company of our
ancestors.

Lord, We Confess We Turn Away

TALLIS' CANON LM ("All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night")

1. Lord, we confess we turn a - way
2. You grieved for old Jeru - sa - lem
3. Lord, call us out and draw us in
4. May we who lis - ten to your voice

the ver - y ones we need to - day.
for you were like a moth - er hen.
when we would be rath - er than side with sin -
be still, be wise, then make a choice.

God's pro - phets speak out loud and clear,
who brought her brood be - neath her wings -
let the call pro - phet - ic - things you say -
You call us to a life that's say new;

yet pro - phets still aren't wel - comed here.
while they were drawn to oth - er things.
still chal - lenge how we live this day.
Lord, may we now re - turn to you.

Biblical Reference: Luke 13:31-35

Tune: Thomas Tallis, 1561

Text: Copyright © 2019 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/

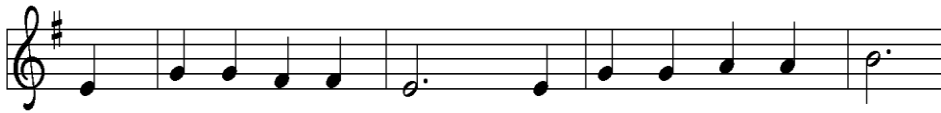
CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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. *(brief silence for reflection)*

Most holy and loving God, **you speak blessing and compassion. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, and indifference. We ignore needs of neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we embrace scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults. 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.**

KYRIE



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 proclaims, “Do not fear. I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as children of God. **Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI

(Gloria is omitted during Lent)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P We pray: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L We pray: **Holy One, whether we are eager to draw near to you, or we are cautious, whether we are certain of your guidance, or we are unsure how you call to us, you are present. Open our senses and open our hearts to experience your fullness. Amen.**

We sit.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

L ¹⁶ Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

PSALM

Psalm 29

(we say responsively by whole verse)

L ¹When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

²Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

³The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

⁴Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

L [Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings

by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL

John 12:1-8

P The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John the 12th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

We sit.

SERMON

“Limits”

Rev. Pr. J. David Bryant

We rise.

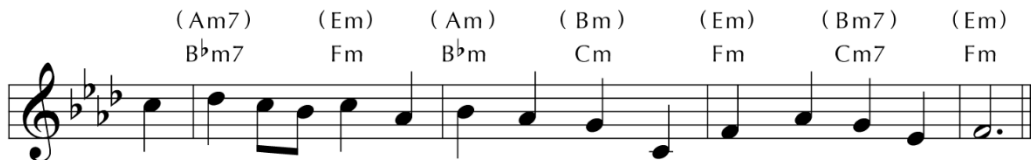
SERMON HYMN

Restore in us, O God

GTG 434



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love;
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your power;
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy;
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace,



re - new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
from fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flower.
bap - tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
that we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

THE NICENE CREED

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

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 Creator God, you have formed us as your own, so whether we are weeping or laughing, dreaming or shouting for joy, we are always coming home to you. For all this and more, we thank you in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

EUCCHARIST

We sit.

OFFERTORY

L There is only one Lord and God, from whom all things come and for whom we live. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

P All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

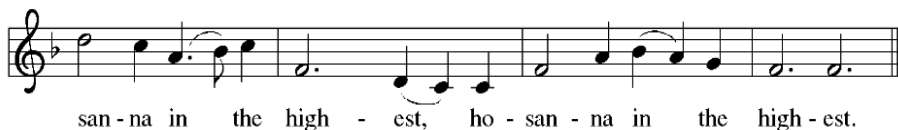
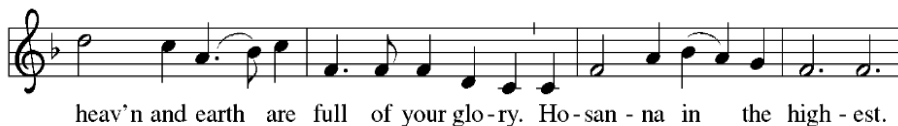
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You made a way through the sea, a path through the waters. Even now you are doing a new thing—making rivers flow in the desert, forming a people for yourself, that we might declare your praise.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:



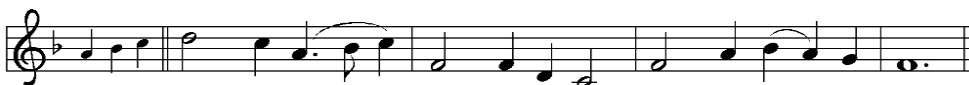
You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You anointed Jesus Christ with the gift of your Holy Spirit, a healing balm, and a fragrant offering of love for the world. He is our Passover, our only hope for salvation.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:



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

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us (†) and upon this bread and cup (†). Make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Teach us to know the surpassing grace of Jesus Christ our Lord: sharing in his suffering and rejoicing in the power of his resurrection, pressing on toward the goal to which you have called us. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever.



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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

LAMB OF GOD

(Communion servers come forward)



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

P Come for all is now ready.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L *We pray:* We give you thanks and praise, O God, for feeding us with your mercy and pouring out your Spirit in this place. Continue to nourish and fill us each day, that we may live as your beloved people, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

DISMISSAL & SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

In the name of Jesus, bring good news to the poor. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Leading Worship: Rev. Pr. J. David Bryant, Minister; Sandi Hilgendorf, Liturgist; Aimee Roberts, Accompanist

Notes & Announcements

- Administration meeting Tuesday, April 8th at 4 pm
- Fellowship meeting Tuesday, April 8th at 5 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
- **Ushers** for April 13th: David Culpepper, Jeanne Hilgendorf, Warren Hilgendorf, Marilyn Culpepper
- **Liturgist** for April 13th: Alex Lutz
- 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

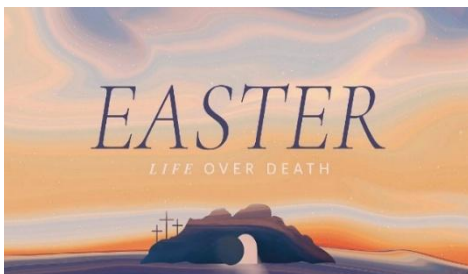
April 14th–18th Holy Week service is held at FUMC at 6:45am. **First Presbyterian will give the message on Thursday, April 19th**

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. **To help get a headcount for the dinner, please sign up in the narthex. Questions? Contact Juanita Ratliff.**



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

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