



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Lent

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, pastor
Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist

March 23, 2025

Jen Hosler, guest pianist

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Pads: Please help us maintain good communication with all our members and guests by completing the Friendship Register as it is passed from the end of each pew. Please let us know the best way to communicate with you. Be sure to greet folks new to you at the end of worship!

Cards of Encouragement: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate.

Introit

There is a Balm in Gilead
African American Spiritual

Ensemble Singers
Adrian Hartsough, director
Jen Hosler, guest pianist

Call To Worship

One: Jesus is God Immanuel

All: Surprise!

One: Jesus says the last will be first

All: Surprise!

One: Jesus said I came to serve not to be served

All: Surprise!

One: Jesus says I give my life so that you will know how much God loves you

All: Surprise!

One: God says death is not the end, for I can do what you think is impossible

All: Surprise!

One: And they will know the deepest joy God can give.

All: The joy of God's love, the joy of God's presence.

One: Surprise!

All: God is here!

* Hymn of Praise

Open My Eyes, That I May See
OPEN MY EYES

Glory to God #451

* Call To Confession

Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist

One: How reluctant we are to answer the call to confession. Quickly we turn our thoughts to something else instead of faithfully assessing where we have been and what we have done. As we speedily disconnect ourselves from advertising calls, so too do we want to disconnect from admitting our shortcomings to God. But our God is a loving God and listens with love. Let us therefore open our hearts and let God in. Let us pray:

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist

Almighty God, your way of working in our world is often beyond our ability to comprehend. You continually surprise us by loving the unlovable, choosing the outcast and forgiving the most egregious sinner among us. Your kingdom is a place where the first are last, the youngest gets picked ahead of the eldest and children are held up as role models. You specialize in the impossible – impossible people, impossible tasks, impossible situations. The truth is, Lord, we just don't "get it." We don't get your time line, and we don't get your methods. Yet, we are grateful for that. For you can redeem what seems beyond repair to us. You can transform what seems hopeless. You can bring life out of death, and for that we give you thanks and praise.

* Silent Prayers of Confession

* Pouring the Water

* **Words of Forgiveness** Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist
One: You are God's Beloved; with you, God is well pleased. You are renewed and restored. You are forgiven and loved. Amen.

* **Passing the Peace** Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist
One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.
(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)

* **Hymn** GLORIA PATRI
Glory Be to the Father
Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Children's Moment Judy Wilson

Prayer of Illumination Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist
Interrupt us, O God, with your presence. Intrude upon our preoccupation, our restlessness, our discontent and our boredom that we might center our hearts and minds on your Word as it is read and proclaimed. Amen.

Gospel Reading John 9:1-12 Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist

Anthem *Were You There* Kara Smith, soloist
Jen Hosler, piano

Hebrew Bible Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Sermon *"Episode 3: Willing to be Surprised"* Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Hymn *Give to the Winds Thy Fears* ***Glory to God* #815**
FESTAL SONG

Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer (as translated by the Maori people)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Call To Offering

Offering Jen Hosler, guest pianist

* **Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Glory to God #606

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heav'nly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

* **Prayer of Dedication**

* **Affirmation of Faith**

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God who has created and is creating; who has come to us in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new; who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence; to live with respect in creation; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil; to proclaim Jesus' message of hope, inclusion and grace. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

* **Hymn**

I Love to Tell the Story

Glory to God #462

HANKEY

* **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Jen Hosler, guest pianist

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

Welcome!

We encourage everyone to come as you are, be who you are, and be in community with us! Whether you are joining us virtually or in-person; we are happy to have you with us anytime! If you are new to First Presbyterian Church, please let us know you are here by signing the **Friendship Pad**. If you are worshipping with us online either live or recorded please **email us at firstpreslawrence@gmail.com** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are interested in membership please talk to Pastor Helen.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- Prayers for Myron Shipley as he receives treatment for cancer.
- **First 5 Years teacher, Lisa Marie Benke**, asks for prayers for her husband, Russell, who was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.
- **Kelly Grube** is receiving treatments for cancer.
- **Alisa Stucky** is asking for prayers in support of her Mother's health. Her mother is **Ruthanne Stucky**.
- **Jenny Skridulis Vellon**, a former member of FPC, had breast cancer surgery recently. She will rest for a few weeks before starting radiation.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnosis.
- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.

- **Linda Wilson, Carol Fleeger's sister-in-law**, asks for prayers while dealing with her continuing her fight against cancer.
- **Prayer for our local community organizations struggling with loss of funding including LINK, Bert Nash, and Haskell**, and we expect to hear about more in the coming days. Lord, hear our prayer.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, is facing serious health challenges.
- **Liz Cloutman** is receiving treatment for breast cancer.
- **Prayer for our local community organizations struggling with loss of funding including LINK, Bert Nash, and Haskell**, and we expect to hear about more in the coming days. Lord, hear our prayer.
- **Prayer for our pastor and church leaders**, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.
- **Prayers for the Care Center, LINK, and Bert Nash** who are experiencing a loss of funding.

Deacon Family Groups - 2025

A-Ca	Deborah Norwood	N-Q	Sandy Groene
Ce-Do	Joyce Carroll	Mc-Mz	Becky May
Dr-F	Diana Schoneweis	R-Si	Linda Longino
G-Ha	Lucille Eggenberger	Sl-T	Russ Heikes
He-Ko	Mary Warren	U-Z	Allen Macfarlane
Kr-Ma	Lois Dutcher		

Birthdays in the Congregation

March 24

Jean Givens

March 25

Dave Kyner

March 26

Karen Schorno

March 28

Joyce Carroll

March 30

Mike Soper

2:00 pm

6:00 pm

6:00 pm

7:00 pm

March 25

9:00 am

1:00 pm

March 26

9:00 am

7:00 pm

7:00 pm

March 27

9:00 am

1:00 pm

6:00 pm

March 28

9:00 am

10:00 am

6:00 pm

March 30

9:15 am

9:15 am

10:30 am

3:30 pm

Pastor Helen's Class

Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

Cub Scout Den Schwaller

First 5 Years Board Meeting

First 5 Years Classes

Small World Classes

First 5 Years Classes

Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

First 5 Years Classes

Small World Classes

Girl Scout CPR Class

First 5 Years Classes

Men's Group

Sustainability Action Annual Meeting

Children's Sunday School Classes

Names of the Messiah Class

Worship

Daisy Troop 5621 Meeting

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Dianne and Vic Sisk, Heather Soper, Martha Rose

Greeters: Lindemeyer family

Offering: Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, Cherie Elo

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Dede Dresser

Calendar

March 23

9:15 am Children's Sunday School Classes

9:15 am Names of the Messiah Class

10:30 am Worship

3:00 pm Bowling – Everyone welcome!

March 24

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

1:15 pm Staff meeting

Children and Youth

• Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth

- Pre-K and Kindergarten – Room 9 – Joan Golden and Nancy Hodges
- 1st and 2nd Grades – Room 12 – Anne Emert and Nikki Barcomb
- 3rd – 5th Grades – Room 14 - Chris Heider and Linda Longino
- The Youth are invited to attend Helen's class, names for the Messiah. **Youth Activities**

• March

- **FUN, FAMILY:** Bowling with FPC Youth – Everyone is invited to Royal Crest Lanes on Sunday, March 23rd at 3:00 pm. RSVP to Kelly at 785-979-2713.

• April

- **FELLOWSHIP** – The youth will be serving biscuits and gravy on Easter morning. We need volunteers to help set up, cook, and serve. If interested in helping contact Kelly Grube at 785-979-2713

Adult Sunday School Classes

- **Names for the Messiah** led by Pastor Helen will meet in the Fireside Room at 9:15 am. For this Lenten season we look at some of the names for Jesus and think about the ways Jesus lives into those names.

Adult Offerings during the week

- **The Men's Group** meets on Friday morning at 10:00 am in the Library.
- **Pastor Helen's Monday Class** – On March 24th in our class on the Kings and Prophets of ancient Israel and Judea, we will look at King Asa of Judah (2 Chronicles 14-16), King Ahab of Israel and Elijah the prophet (1 Kings 17-18). The class meets at 2 pm in the Fireside Room.

Pastor Helen's Lenten Sermon Series

When I was in seminary, I was youth director for Central Presbyterian Church in Denver. I hosted a Star Wars Movie Marathan at the request of the youth, and we had a deep theological discussion. The young people debated big questions about the force (i.e the force is not evil or good it just is and it is the way people use the force that makes something good or bad...) **That is the inspiration for our Lenten sermon series entitled The Prophets Story.**

March 30th Fourth Sunday of Lent Episode 4: Finding Life