



Temptation in the Wilderness, Briton Riviere

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

First Sunday in Lent  
Sunday, February 26, 2023  
10:30 A.M.

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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## THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

\*LITANY FOR LENT

For forty days and nights the rain fell, and the waters covered the face of the earth.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

For forty years the people wandered, seeking the land of God's promise.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Moses spent forty days on the mountain, learning the commandments of God.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness to hear the voice of God in the silence.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh: Repent, or in forty days you will perish.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days and was tested by the devil.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

*A brief silence is kept.*

\*OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

\*HYMN 166

*Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

ST. FLAVIAN

May God be with you in worship here.

**May God be with you in worship there.**

*Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.*

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

*Joel 2:12-13*

In this season, God calls us back home. We are invited to open our hearts and return to the way of love. For God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Trusting in this grace, let us confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful One, we are so easily tempted. We turn away from your word so quickly. We seek anything that claims to save us from discomfort, inconvenience, pain, fear, and emptiness. But these are false idols, dissolving in the wind. You are our true hope and salvation, our hiding place, our guide, our guardian. We confess our transgressions to you: forgive our sins.**

*Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer.*

## SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 577)

*The choir will sing once through, with the congregation joining on the second time.*

*The Greek phrase "Kyrie Eleison" means "Lord, have mercy."*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

## POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen, so that you may live: the steadfast love of the Lord never fails. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

## \*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

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

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

## \*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 649)

AMAZING GRACE

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 4:1-11 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

### SERMON

Patrick Wallace

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Theological Declaration of Barmen, 8.14-15*

**As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords—areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.**

**THE EUCHARIST**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*What Wondrous Love*

Sharp

\*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 223)

HAMBURG

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.*

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. You may take communion by taking a small piece of bread and dipping it in the cup.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, as you fed your people in the wilderness with unexpected food, so you feed us at this table with a simple loaf and cup. Here you transform us, by the working of your wondrous love. Now send us out to be Christ's body in your broken and beautiful world to bear your good news of hope and joy for all. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

\*HYMN 833

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

ST. MARGARET

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

## LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Patrick Wallace*

Presiding at the Table: *Dennis Jewett*

Liturgist: *Patrick Corkran*

Communion Servers: *Suzanne Guyer & Janice Odom*

# The Life of the Church

**Our Lenten Book Study** begins this Wednesday, March 1. We will explore *Meeting Jesus at the Table*, by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. Classes will meet at 6 p.m. in the Parlor. For March 1, read chapters 1 and 2.

**A Simple Supper** will be held before the Lenten Study each week at 5:15pm in Fellowship Hall. A suggested donation of \$5 per person will help defray the cost.

**A Lenten Food Drive** gives us an opportunity to make sure our neighbors served by the Help Office have the food they need. During the Sundays of Lent, there will be a different item you will be encouraged to bring to church each Sunday. Next week, March 5, bring canned fruit. There will be a table at the front of the sanctuary where you can place your contribution.

**Our Youth Group** is returning today from a weekend in Terre Haute, Indiana, engaging in mission and activities with the High Point Youth Group. We look forward to welcoming the youth from Terre Haute to Owensboro later in the summer.

**We welcome Gabriel Lovelace** to FPC our new staff accountant. Gabriel is a native of Owensboro and a graduate of Owensboro High School. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Brescia University.

**Hearing Assistance Devices** are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.

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**Next Sunday, March 5, bring:**





First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive  
community of faith called to proclaim  
the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people,  
and to join God in the building of a  
just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



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Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor  
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission  
Stephanie Dube, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries  
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music  
Tyler Simpson, Organist  
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant  
Gabriel Lovelace, Staff Accountant  
Dylan Schroader, Custodian  
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider