

Third Sunday of Epiphany

January 21, 2024
10:30 A.M.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God is our rock and salvation.

We wait to hear from God; our souls wait.

We depend on God alone;

we release what will pass away

and rest in God's enduring mercy.

Though God calls us down difficult paths,

we answer, relying on God's help,

for God keeps calling us to the work.

Let us worship God!

*OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 109

Blest Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Diane Bowers

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

Is. 40:27-28

Nothing can be hidden from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, whose wisdom is endless, whose mercy is great. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy God, you called the disciples to drop their nets and follow you, yet we are hesitant to drop the tools and comforts of our lives. We distract ourselves from your call with busyness, stress, and worry. We tangle ourselves in webs of racism, sexism, and hatred that disguises itself as fear. Forgive us, O Lord, and by your forgiveness, open our ears to hear your voice saying to us, "Follow me."

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Is. 40:31

Those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength. They will rise up to fly like eagles, they will run and not be weary, they will walk and not grow faint. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

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 721)

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

**Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
You only asked me to follow humbly.**

Refrain:

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me.
By your side I will seek other seas.**

**You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
My loving friend, as thus you call me: *Refrain***

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us your word, O God, that we may hear Jesus' call to be his disciples.
Amen.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 62:5-12 A song of God's covenant people. **Amen.**

Mark 1:14-20 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“Going My Way?”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Theological Declaration of Barmen (Germany, 1934)

Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death. 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 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 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Mark Hayes

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my life is Jesus. (Kathleen Thomerson)

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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:

Sung by all:

**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 prayer continues.*

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. Usbers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Prepackaged gluten-free elements are available in the baskets near the communion stations. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have fed us with your mercy and poured 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.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Suzanne Guyer*

Communion Servers: *Tom & Susan Furlong*

Worship and Wonder: *Stephanie Dube*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Brian Loucks
by John, Marna, Sarah Beth, and Willmac.

The Life of the Church

The Annual Congregational Meeting has been called for next Sunday, January 28, for the purpose of receiving the annual report, electing officers, and voting on the pastor's terms of call. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary following worship.

Church Game Night will be held next Sunday evening, January 28 from 5-7 P.M. We will enjoy a chili supper and spend some time playing board games. Come join the fun!

Doris Black's 90th Birthday is being celebrated next Saturday, January 27, from 2:00-4:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. Doug Black and Debbie McCoy invite you to celebrate with their family. Doris will appreciate cards, but no gifts, please.

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



Church Financial Update

Week Ending Jan. 14

Income: \$41,580.50

Expense: \$30,237.05

Balance: \$11,343.45

Year 2023 (Final)

Income: \$620,943.02

Expenses: \$659,381.83

Balance: -\$38,438.81

Month of December

Income: \$102,357.44

Expense: \$ 74,093.54

Balance: \$28,263.90

Our church is only able to do its ministry because of the generous giving of its members and friends. Thank you for your gifts.



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.

FIRST
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CHURCH

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CHURCH STAFF

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