



Owensboro Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Walk

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Sunday, January 29, 2023
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

When we seek justice for the other,
When we love kindness more than ever,
We live as God asks us to live.
When we walk humbly through life,
When we offer mercy to those who hurt us,
We are the blessing God hopes we will be.
When we are willing to look foolish by following Jesus,
When we choose weakness rather than power,
We reflect the One who is in our midst.

*OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom by giving your kingdom to the lowly and pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice and perseverance in striving for peace, that by our words and deeds the world may see the promise of your kingdom, revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Matt Curry

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

God has told us what is good, what is required: Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with God. These commands are so simple, yet we know we have not always followed them. With that knowledge, let us bring our confession to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, your justice protects those who are weak, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems those who are poor, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds those who are oppressed, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray.

Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Mic. 6:8; 1 Cor. 1:30; Matt. 5:12

Siblings in God's family, your sins are forgiven by the faith of Christ, who chose love over hatred and forgiveness over blame. Rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy is great; Jesus brings healing, justice, and peace.

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

CRUSADER'S HYMN

*Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou God to earth come down,
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, your blessings are abundant, and your wisdom exceeds our grasp. Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day, that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers, sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak, or persecuted., and revealing to all your glory. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Micah 6:1-8 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 5:1-12 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“What is God’s Will?”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

adapted from the Confession of Belbar

We believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and nourishes the Church from the beginning of the world to the end. We believe that God wants to bring about true justice and lasting peace on earth, and believe that God is, in a special sense, the God of the suffering, the poor and the downtrodden. We praise God who gives justice to the oppressed and bread to the hungry; who sets captives free and makes the blind to see; who protects strangers, orphans, and widows and obstructs the plans of the wicked. We believe that the Church belongs to God and that it should stand where God stands: against injustice and with those who are wronged. We commit ourselves to reject all forms of injustice in ourselves and amongst us; and to struggle against all forms of injustice and every teaching that allows injustices to flourish.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING *We Shall Walk Through the Valley* arr. Undine Moore

*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:

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

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world—because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 298

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Tom Furlong*

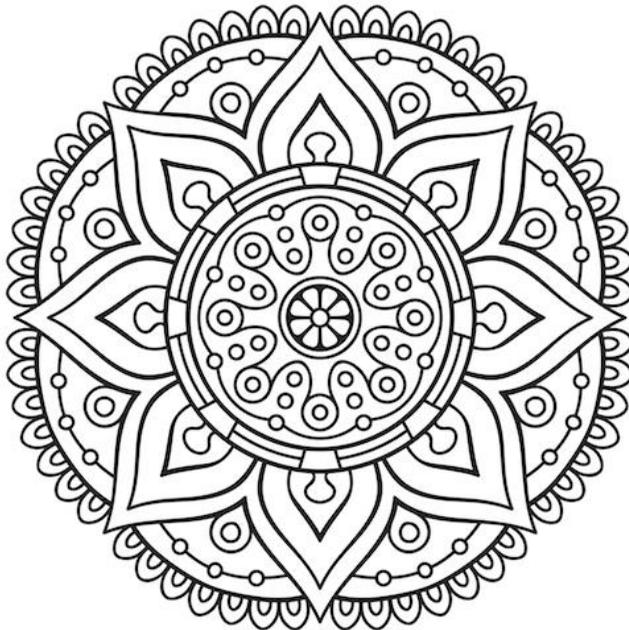
Communion Servers: *Susan Furlong & Beverly Swanson*

The Life of the Church

The Annual Congregational Meeting is today after worship in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to join us for lunch and to learn more about the work of our congregation.

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

The traditional **Ash Wednesday** service will be conducted at 6 p.m. Feb. 22 in the sanctuary. That same morning, Pastor Matt will be offering “Ashes to Go,” from 8 to 10 in the drive-thru in front of the narthex/main entrance to the sanctuary. The following Wednesday, March 1, the pastor will begin a weekly Lenten book study on Meeting Jesus at the Table, by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. See Sasha if you need help ordering the book.





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
Kevin Parker, Staff Accountant
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider