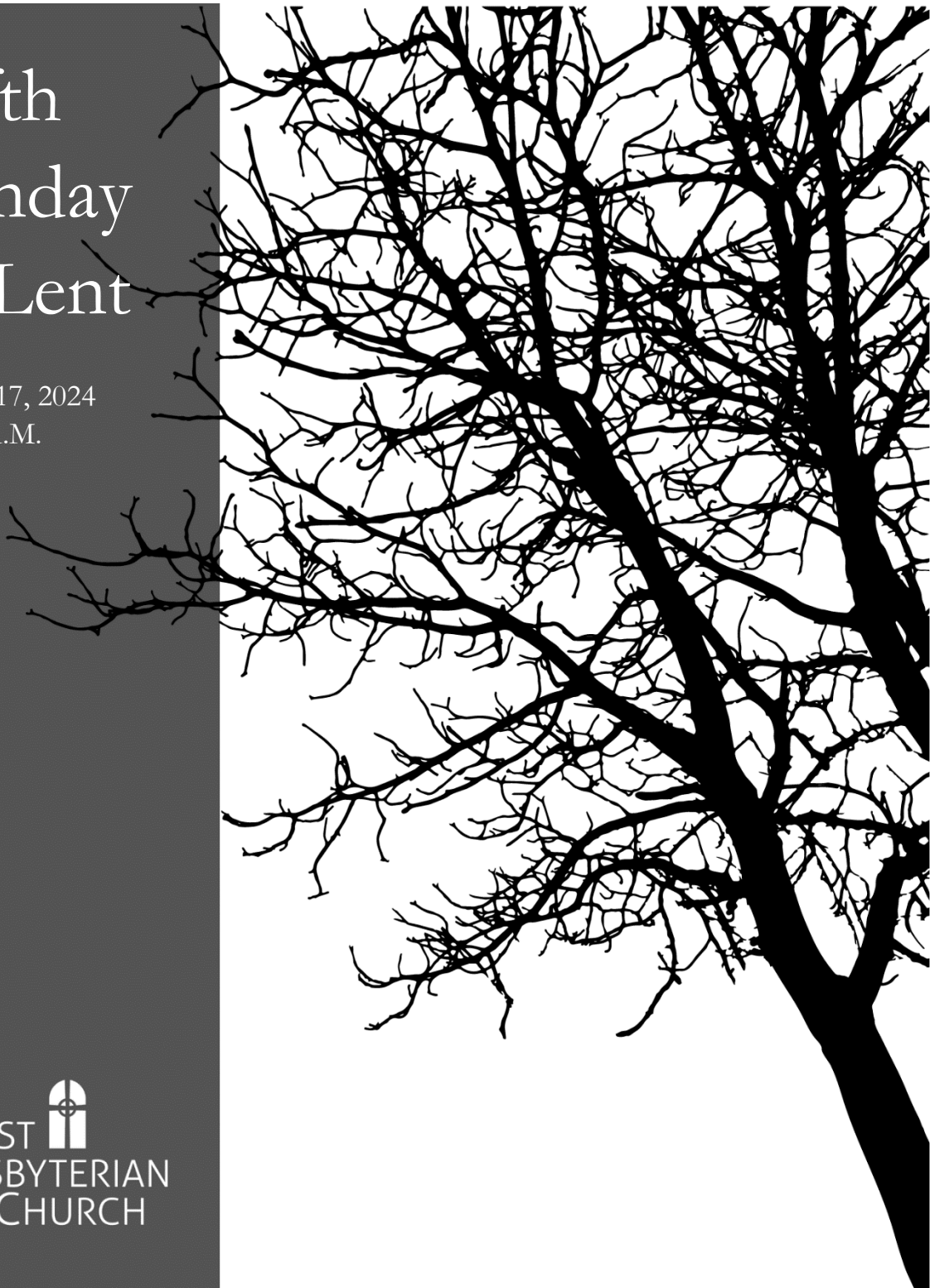


Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024
10:30 A.M.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

St. Patrick's Breastplate

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ORGAN INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 51:1, 10, 12

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;
According to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.
Create in us clean hearts, O God,
Put a new and right spirit within us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation,
Sustain in us a willing spirit.

*OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, by the cross and resurrection of Jesus, you lift the suffering world toward hope and transformation and open the way to eternal salvation. As we move ever closer to the passion of Christ, may your law of love be written on our hearts as he draws all people to himself revealing your love for the world; for he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 409

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Stephanie Dube

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

2 Cor. 5:20

In the name of Christ, I urge you: be reconciled to God. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Through the season of Lent, O God, we have prayed for clean hearts and right spirits. Forgive us, O Lord, if we have prayed with our words but have failed to pray with our actions. Forgive us of what we have done that has contributed to the suffering of another, and forgive us of what we have failed to do that could have lightened a neighbor's burden. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy. Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again. Amen.

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

SUNG RESPONSE

Text: Greek, "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy" Tune: Antonin Dvorak

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i -
son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, Chri - ste
e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, Chri - ste
e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Family of God, by the faith of Christ your sins are forgiven. May you delight in the joy of your salvation. **Thanks be to God!**

*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 833)

ST. MARGARET

**O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.**

**O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.**

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

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Covington

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That we are not our own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. Because we belong to him, Christ, by the Holy Spirit, assures us of eternal life and makes us wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for God.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

One Great Hour of Sharing

Tom Furlong

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

O Christ, Surround Me

arr. David Sims

Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me: O Christ, surround me.
(Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, based on a prayer of St. Patrick)

*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. Ushers 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

Patrick of Ireland (c. 389-461)

**May the strength of God pilot us. May the power of God preserve us.
May the wisdom of God instruct us. May the hand of God protect us.
May the way of God direct us. May the shield of God defend us.
May the host of God guard us against the snares of evil
and the temptations of the world.
May Christ be with us, Christ before us, Christ in us, Christ over us.
May your salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and forevermore. Amen.**

THE SENDING

*HYMN 802

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ST. COLUMBA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matthew Covington* | Liturgist: *Patrick Corkran*
Communion Servers: *Tom & Susan Furlong* | Worship and Wonder: *Marsha Nash*

We welcome **Rev. Matthew Covington** to our pulpit today. Matthew is recently retired as pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, KY.

The Life of the Church

Our Wednesday Night Lenten Series concludes this week.

5:00 P.M. | Dinner provided by groups in the congregation

5:40 P.M. | Worship in Fellowship Hall

6:00 P.M. | Classes for All Ages

The Adult Class has been exploring Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Learning to Walk in the Dark* and will discuss chapter 9 & the epilogue.

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

Financial Update Our ministry is funded by the giving of members and friends. Thank you for your generosity.

Year (through Feb.)

Income: \$100,889.78

Expense: \$ 94,566.51

Balance: \$ 6,323.27

Month to Date

Income: \$15,098.69

Expense: \$23,048.38

Balance: -\$7,949.69

Week Ending Mar. 15

Income: \$ 4,681.74

Expense: \$ 995.55

Balance: \$ 3,686.19

Statement from the Session

On March 13, after months of prayerful discussion, the Session of our church and the Commission on Ministry of our presbytery, by means of unanimous decision, have decided to place Reverend Matt Curry on paid administrative leave while we work on his terms of call. There are no legal or financial indiscretions involved in this situation. We are working with Reverend Curry concerning the length of his administrative leave.

Rev. Matthew Covington, a member of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky, will preach and lead worship this Sunday. If you have a pastoral care need this weekend, please contact Clerk of Session Debbie McCoy (270-925-4649).

We are grateful for your prayers and support as we seek to be faithful to God's call.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church



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
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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FPCOwensboro



fpcobky

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Matt Curry
Pastor

Jeff Moles
Director of Christian
Education & Mission

Stephanie Dube
Director of Children's &
Youth Ministries

Dennis Jewett
Director of Music

Sasha O'Bryan
Office Manager &
Pastoral Assistant

Dylan Schroader
Custodian