



Church of the Light, Ibaraki, Japan

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 19, 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.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*1 Sam. 16:7, John 9:5, Eph. 5:8-9*

God does not see as mortals see.

We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

**Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

Once we lived in darkness, but now—

As children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.

**Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

### \*OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, in order that the children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world. As Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in all truth and goodness; 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 802

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ST. COLUMBA

### 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

*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

**Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray.**

**Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

*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

*Ps. 23:6, Eph. 5:8b, 14b*

The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**We will live as children of the light, for Christ shines on us.**

\*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 39)

FAITHFULNESS

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

## THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Eph. 5:9-10*

Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ's name, we pray. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:8-14

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

John 9:1-41

The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

"The Hassles of Being Healed"

Rev. Matt Curry

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Presbyterians for Disability Concerns*

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, came among us as one of us, in a form vulnerable to brokenness, to tear down attitudinal and physical barriers that exclude. He brought healing and wholeness to those deprived of dignity and self-respect. He came so that the blind shall walk with confidence, the deaf shall understand with joy, the lame shall have full access everywhere, and the mute shall be heard. All shall profess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all and be enabled to serve in God's kingdom.**

**THE EUCHARIST**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING    *"The Lord is My Shepherd"* from *Requiem*    John Rutter

\*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

**We give you thanks, O God, for here at your table you have transformed us from individuals into the body of Christ. Make us strong for your service that we may be messengers of your reconciling love for all people. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

\*HYMN 377

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

## LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Debbie McCoy*

Communion Servers: *Patti Price & Janice Odom*

# The Life of the Church

**The Online Church Directory Help Desk** is open today in the Library before and after worship. Get help updating your directory profile, loading the app on your device, or answering any questions you might have about using the Instant Church Directory app.

**Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt** will be held Sunday, April 2 at 2:00pm, with activities and fellowship for kids of all ages! Donations of candy are being accepted in the church office.

**Our Lenten Book Study** continues on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. We are exploring *Meeting Jesus at the Table* by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. March 22, read chapter 5. Join us for a simple supper at 5:15 in Fellowship Hall.

**A Lenten Food Drive** gives us an opportunity to make sure our neighbors served by the Help Office have the food they need. Next week, March 26, bring canned vegetables (except corn and green beans). Donations may be brought to the table in the sanctuary.

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



You are invited to help us adorn the sanctuary with hydrangeas on Easter Sunday. The cost of each hydrangea is \$25. Checks can be made to First Presbyterian Church with Easter flowers in the memo. To order, fill out the form in the bulletin, email [office@fpcobky.com](mailto:office@fpcobky.com), or call the office. **The order deadline is Thurs., March 23. No late orders will be taken.**

The following information is needed:

## Easter Flowers

In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity \_\_\_\_\_



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