



Raising of Lazarus, John August Swanson

FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 26, 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

Ezek. 37:3; Ps. 130:1, 6, 7

O mortal, can these bones live?

Only the Lord God knows.

Cry out to the Lord, raise your voices.

We wait for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

O people, hope in the Lord.

With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of all consolation and compassion, your Son grieved along with friends who faced great loss. Your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may face despair and death with the hope of resurrection and faith 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 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

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

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

God of resurrection, we know the power of death. We have seen its works, we have felt its sting. We have been to the valley of despair, and felt like there was no chance for life. We do not believe in your power to resurrect. We do not believe in your power to redeem our pain, and fashion something beautiful in this world. Forgive us. We cry from the depths— however faint our call may be, we pray you hear our voice.

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.”

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains two measures of music with the lyrics "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." The second staff contains two measures of music with the lyrics "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." The second measure of the second staff features a triplet of eighth notes.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ezek. 37

Thus says the Lord: You shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.

We believe the good news! Thanks be to God.

*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 301)

TWO OAKS

*Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

John 11:1-45

Lord God, Great I AM, you are resurrection and life. As we hear your word, show us who we are: bearers of good news, messengers of resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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

John 11:1-45

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

SERMON

“When the Roll...”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Declaration of Faith

In the death of Jesus Christ, God's way in the world seemed finally defeated. But death was no match for God. The resurrection of Jesus was God's victory over death. Death often seems to prove that life is not worth living, that our best efforts and deepest affections go for nothing. We do not yet see the end of death. But Christ has been raised from the dead, transformed and yet the same person. In his resurrection is the promise of ours. We are convinced the life God wills for each of us is stronger than the death that destroys us. The glory of that life exceeds our imagination but we know we shall be with Christ. So we treat death as a broken power. Its ultimate defeat is certain. In the face of death we grieve. Yet in hope we celebrate life. No life ends so tragically that its meaning and value are destroyed. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Lord of the Small

Dan Forrest

Praise to the Lord of the small, broken things,
Who sees the poor sparrow that cannot take wing,
Who loves the lame child, and the wretch in the street,
Who comforts their sorrows and washes their feet.

Praise to the Lord of the frail and the ill,
Who heals their afflictions or carries them till
They leave this tired frame and to paradise fly
To never be sick and never to die.

Praise to the Lord, the faint and afraid,
Who girds them with courage and lends them His aid;
He pours out His Spirit on vessels so weak
That the timid can serve and the silent can speak.

Praise Him, O praise Him, all ye who yet live,
Who've been given so much and can so little give,
Our frail, lisping praise God will never despise:
He sees His dear children through mercy-filled eyes.

*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 250

Hymn of Promise

PROMISE

*CHARGE AND BENEDECTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry* | Liturgist: *Tom Furlong* | Communion Servers: *Suzanne Guyer & Don Preuss*

The Life of the Church

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held next Sunday at 2:00pm, with activities and kids and fellowship for all ages! Donations of candy and plastic eggs are still needed.

Our Lenten Book Study concludes on Wednesday evening at 6pm. We are exploring *Meeting Jesus at the Table* by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. March 29, read chapter 6 and 7. Join us for a simple supper at 5:15 in Fellowship Hall.

Our Lenten Food Drive has given us an opportunity to make sure our neighbors served by the Help Office have the food they need. Next week, April 2, bring beans and rice. Donations may be brought to the table in the sanctuary.



Holy Week begins with next week's Palm Sunday service. There will be several opportunities to join the church in enacting the great drama of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Maunder Thursday | April 6 at 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Good Friday | April 7 at 6:00pm, Sanctuary

Great Vigil of Easter | April 8 at 6:00pm, Prayer Garden

Easter Sunday | April 9: Breakfast 9:00-10:15 in Fellowship Hall; Worship at 10:30

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



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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Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Gabriel Lovelace, Staff Accountant
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider