



The Return of the Prodigal Son, Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, c.1665

FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 27, 2022

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

2 Cor. 5; Lk 15

Jesus welcomes sinners, feasting with them.

We come home to God's scandalously inclusive love.

Christ makes in us a new creation:

everything old has passed away, everything has become new!

We come home to God's constantly renewing mercy.

We are made ambassadors for Christ, messengers of reconciliation.

We come home to God's new world of justice, peace, and liberation.

*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 643

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

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

Ps. 32:5-6

God is a hiding place that preserves us from trouble. In distress, the rush of mighty waters will not reach us who acknowledge our sin and do not hide our iniquity. Let us confess our brokenness to the God who delivers us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray.

Silence is kept.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Lk. 15:20

As a parent welcomes home a wayward child, so God embraces all who return in true repentance. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*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 418)

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.*

Refrain:

“Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.”

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord of light and salvation, let these words of Scripture live not only in our mouths, but in our hearts, that we will embody your truth and confess with our lives that Jesus is Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 32 A song of God’s covenant people. **Amen**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“Older Brother Problems”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will

not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Wondrous Love

Eric Nelson

*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

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 772

Live Into Hope

TRURO

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Anna Robinson*

Communion Servers: *CeCe & Troy Robinson*

The Life of the Church

The Pastor's Lenten Book Study continues on Wednesday nights at 6:00pm in the Gardenside Parlor, running through April 6. We are discussing the book *I'm Proud of You: My Friendship with Fred Rogers* by Tim Madigan.

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Sunday, April 10 at 2:00pm. In addition to activities for kids, this year's event will include fellowship for all ages. Plan to join us!

The FPC Educational Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to undergraduate students who are active in the life of our church and have financial need. Applications are now open. Complete information is available at bit.ly/FPCScholarshipFund.

Our Financial Secretary Staci Horn has announced that she will be retiring in May after 17 years of faithful service to our church. The Personnel Committee, after consultation the Finance Committee, is moving forward to find a part time bookkeeper and human resources person. We will be advertising for the position, and will be happy to receive recommendations of non-member friends who might be interested. Please contact Jerry Price if you have a suggestion.

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

Easter Flowers

This year, we will order Easter Tulips to adorn the sanctuary through Welborn Florist. The cost of each tulip is \$15. Checks can be made to First Presbyterian Church with Easter flowers in the memo. Please fill out the form in the bulletin, email (office@fpcobky.com), or call (270-684-1467) the office to place your order. The following information is needed:

In honor/Memory of _____

Given by _____ Quantity _____

Order deadline is Monday, April 11.





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.



1328 Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, Kentucky
270.684.1467
fpcobky.com

Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Stephanie Dube, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music
Patrick Ritsch, Organist
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Staci Estes Horn, Financial Secretary
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Kate Bowley, Nursery Care Provider