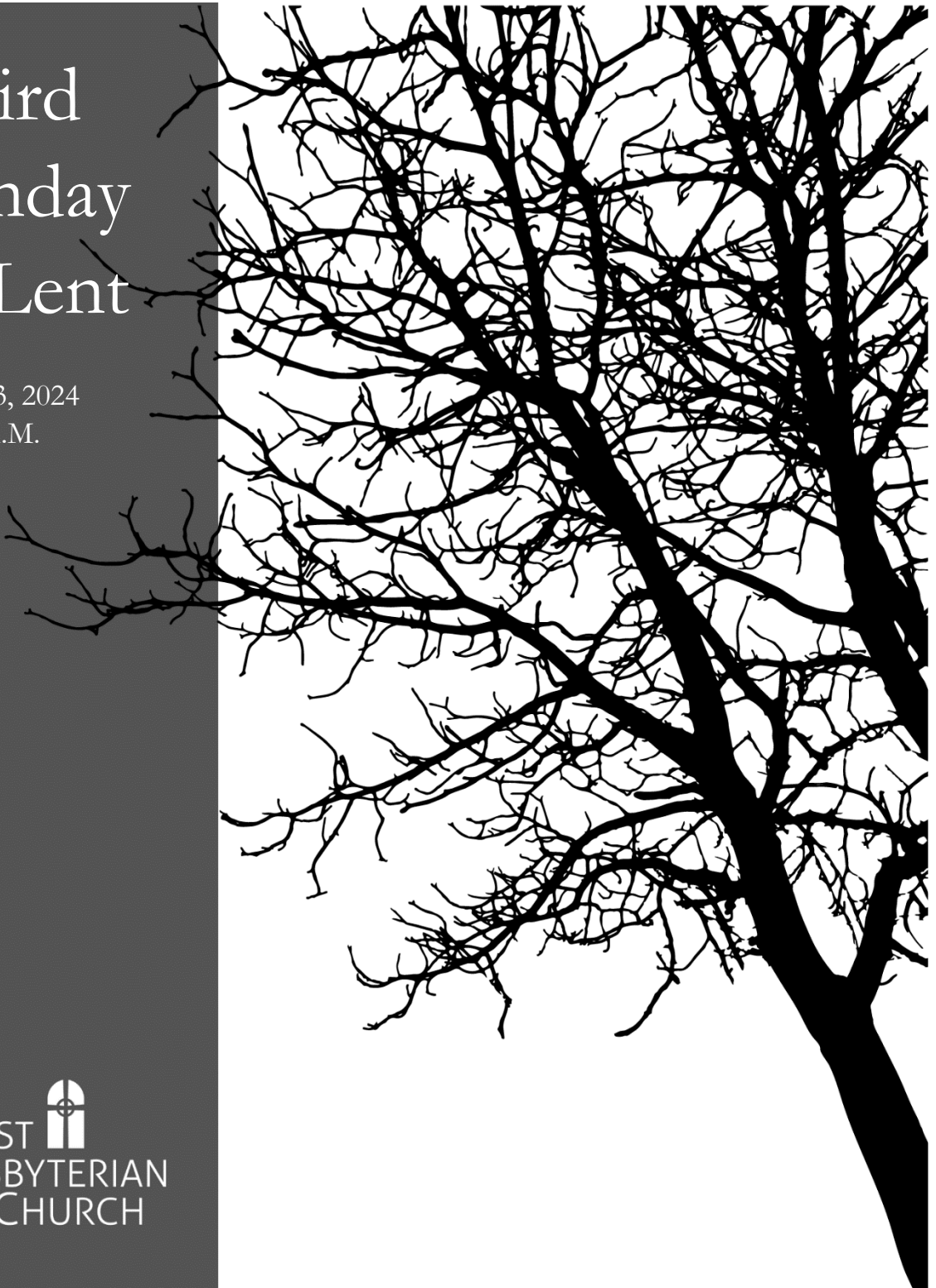


# Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024  
10:30 A.M.

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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## THE GATHERING & SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRELUDE

*Psalm 19 ("The heavens are telling...")*

B. Marcello

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Ps. 19:1, 7, 17*

Heaven is declaring your glory, O God;

**The sky is proclaiming your handiwork.**

Your instruction is perfect, reviving our very being.

**Your judgments are more desirable than the purest gold  
or the sweetest honey.**

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our heart be pleasing to you.

**For you are our rock and our redeemer.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, that we may become instruments of your saving love; 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 463

*How Firm a Foundation*

FOUNDATION

THE BAPTISM OF ASHER KAI CALLIS GOODWIN

QUESTIONS TO THE CHILDREN

Will you be a friend to Asher? **We will.**

If he gets lost, will you show him the way? **We will.**

Will you share with him the stories of God's love? **We will.**

## QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Asher by word and deed, with love and prayer? **We do.**

Will you encourage him to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of his church? **We will.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: HYMN 188      *Jesus Loves Me!*

## 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

**O Christ who chased the money changers from the temple, chase the greed from our lives and our hearts. As you overturned the tables, O Lord, overturn the systems in our world that contribute to cycles of poverty and oppression. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we contribute to the world's brokenness. 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

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, Chri - ste. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

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

*2 Cor. 6:2*

Listen, the time has come at last. Look, now is the day of salvation!  
 In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **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 726)

KELVINGROVE

**“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
 Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?  
 Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
 Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”**

**“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
 Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
 Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
 Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
 In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.  
 Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

## 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

Psalm 19                      A song of God's covenant people. **Amen.**

John 2:13-22                The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

### SERMON

“Zeal for God's House”

Rev. Matt Curry

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from the Confession of 1967*

**The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for humanity when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.**

## THE EUCHARIST

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING    *My Faith Has Found a Resting Place*

arr. Bridwell

### \*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

**Thank you, gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days. As we travel on through the wilderness help us to share your grace with others and draw us ever closer to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### THE SENDING

\*HYMN 819

*Be Still, My Soul*

FINLANDIA

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*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 & Karen Taylor* | Worship and Wonder: *Marsha Nash*

# The Life of the Church

**Worship Committee** meets today following worship in the Gardenside Parlor.

**FPC Night Out at Pamir** is scheduled for tonight 5:30 P.M. Pamir is a restaurant opened by some of the folks who have resettled here from Afghanistan. In addition to trying some delicious Afghan cuisine, we will have an opportunity to hear the stories of a few of these newer Owensboro neighbors. You will be able to order from the menu or enjoy the buffet, which is \$18 for adults and \$12 for children.

**The Monthly Men's Fellowship Breakfast** will be held this Saturday, March 9, at 8:00 A.M. Guys of all ages are welcome to join us for food, friendship, and a devotional.

**Spirit Lifters**, our group that enjoys dinner out together each month, will be eating at Old Hickory BBQ at 5:15 P.M. this Tuesday, March 5. Please let Jerry Price know if you plan to attend.

**Our Wednesday Night Lenten Series** continues this week and runs through March 20.

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 will be exploring Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. Here is the discussion schedule:

- Mar. 6: Chapters 5 & 6
- Mar. 13: Chapters 7 & 8
- Mar. 20: Chapter 9 & 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 to Date (through Jan.)**

Income: \$57,974.27

Expense: \$46,202.16

Balance: \$11,772.11

**Month of Feb. to Date**

Income: \$33,041.95

Expense: \$35,147.25

Balance: -\$2,105.30

**Week Ending Feb. 23**

Income: \$5,015.00

Expense: \$9,610.45

Balance: -\$4,595.45



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



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#### CHURCH STAFF

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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