



Born Again (Nicodemus and Jesus), Lauren Wright Pittman

FIRST   
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 5, 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

*Ps. 121:1, 5, 8*

From where will our help come?

**Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Who is our keeper?

**The Lord is our keeper, by day and by night.**

How long will God protect us?

**God will keep our going out and our coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

God our helper, our shade, our protector, you are able to give life to the dead, to call into being things that do not exist. We trust in your power to make all things new; to keep us in sunlight and moonlight, along rocky paths and pathways unknown; until all our going and coming bring us at last to your kingdom promised in our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

\*HYMN 49

*The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONI

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Jeff Moles

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 come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. 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."*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first phrase: "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." The second staff contains the melody for the second phrase: "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." The second phrase includes a triplet of eighth notes on the final "e - le - i - son."

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*John 3:16-17*

Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven! **Amen.**

\*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 839)

ASSURANCE

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!*

*Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;*

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest.*

*Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.*

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;*

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

## THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of signs and wonders, we come to your word again and again, seeking understanding and the new life it offers. By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds so that we may believe this testimony and have eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Savior, we pray. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:1-4a

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

John 3:1-17

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

SERMON

“Nic at Night”

Rev. Matt Curry

**The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guide people in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries. Life in Christ is eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.**

## THE EUCHARIST

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*I Lift Up Mine Eyes*

Sharp

\*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

**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 817

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

DUNLAP'S CREEK

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

## LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *John Lashbrook*

Communion Servers: *Brad Smith & Kim Lashbrook*

## The Life of the Church

**Our Lenten Book Study** continues on Wednesday evenings. We are exploring *Meeting Jesus at the Table* by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. Classes meet at 6 p.m. in the Parlor. For March 8, read chapter 3.

**A Simple Supper** is held before the Lenten Study each week at 5:15pm in Fellowship Hall. A suggested donation of \$5 per person will help defray the cost.

**A Lenten Food Drive** gives us an opportunity to make sure our neighbors served by the Help Office have the food they need. During the Sundays of Lent, there will be a different item you will be encouraged to bring to church each Sunday. Next week, March 5, bring canned meat (tuna, salmon, chicken, Spam, etc.). There will be a table at the front of the sanctuary where you can place your contribution.

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

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### Next Sunday, March 12, bring:





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