

# First Presbyterian Church

Lexington, North Carolina  
Organized in 1827

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**March 19, 2023 + 11:00 AM**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Indented **BOLD** indicates everyone speaks.

\* Indicates that those who are able may stand.

## **WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD**

### **CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BELL PRELUDE**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 139:23, 24

One: Search me, O God, and know my heart;

**All: Try me and know my thoughts!**

One: See if there is any wicked way in me,

**All: And lead me in the way everlasting. Let us worship God.**

### **\*HYMN #267**

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Refrain:

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,*

*All things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.*

1. *Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings:  
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings. [Refrain]*
2. *The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,  
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky, [Refrain]*
3. *The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. [Refrain]*
4. *God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well. [Refrain]*

### **\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

John 3:14-15

**Jesus said, The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.**

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Faithful God, you are the alpha and the omega. You see all parts of time from the beginning to the end. Our perspective, by comparison, is so limited. We see only a tiny moment in time. Forgive our impatience, and instead give us, we pray, sense of the long view, a greater willingness to forebear. Increase our faith in these Lenten days through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

*Gloria Patri*

#579

*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.*

**WE HEAR THE WORD**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

*Colossians 1:1-18*

Skip Greathouse

**ANTHEM**

*O Love*  
Chancel Choir

Hagenberg

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

*Acts 5:27-42*

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Four Faithful Folks, Part 4: Gamaliel*

Rev. Jon Martin

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN #442**

*The Church's One Foundation*

- 1. The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation by water and the word.  
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.*
- 2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*
- 3. Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*
- 4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.*
- 5. Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.*

**\*WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE**

*(The Heidelberg Catechism, 4.060)*

**How are we righteous before God? Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. In spite of the fact that my conscience accuses me that I have grievously sinned against all the commandments of God, and have**

not kept any one of them, and that I am still ever prone to all that is evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of my own, out of pure grace, grants me the benefits of the perfect expiation of Christ, imputing to me his righteousness and holiness as if I had never committed a single sin or had ever been sinful, having fulfilled myself all the obedience which Christ has carried out for me, if only I accept such favor with a trusting heart.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

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.

#### THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*There Is a Fountain*  
JoAnn Hill and Regina Pozzi

arr. Hayes

\*Doxology (Hymn #592)

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; / Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. / Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We give you thanks, O God, for the good news we have heard today. As your Spirit stirs us, receive these gifts as part of our response to the grace and mercy you send in abundance. Put us to work to share the love and forgiveness we have received with those around us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN #344

*Christ of the Upward Way*

1. *Christ of the upward way, my Guide divine,  
Where Thou hast set Your feet, may I place mine;  
And move and march wherever You have trod,  
Keeping face forward up the hill of God.*
2. *Give me the heart to hear Your voice and will,  
That without fault or fear I may fulfill  
Your purpose with a glad and holy zest,  
Like one who would not bring less than the best.*
3. *Christ of the upward way, my Guide divine,  
Where You have set Your feet, may I place mine;  
And when Your last call comes serene and clear,  
Calm may my answer be, "Lord, I am here."*

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Praeludium and Fuga in A minor*

J. S. Bach

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## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Whether this is your first time worshipping with us or you have been with us for years, we welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ. We are so glad you have gathered with us to give thanks to God and respond to Jesus' call to follow him. If you would like more information about our congregation, please speak with the pastor or one of our church leaders. Information about the church is available in the Lobby and Narthex.

## **UPCOMING PALM SUNDAY PLANS**

On April 2, First Presbyterian will participate in the Community Palm Sunday Service at the Old Courthouse at the Square (3 blocks from the church). At the conclusion of our 11:00 AM blended service, we will walk up Main Street for this brief community service. Our First Sunday Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall at noon, for all who do not wish to walk up the street, and will be waiting for everyone following the community service at approximately 12:45 PM.

## **EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN**

Our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by our middle school youth group, will be held Palm Sunday, April 2, at 1:15 PM on the front lawn. Children and grandchildren are invited to bring their Easter baskets to the front lawn for dancing and hunting fun! In case of rain, we will hold the hunt indoors.

## **EASTER LILIES**

This year, we will be decorating our sanctuary and fellowship hall for Easter with lilies. Plants may be given in memory or honor of a loved one, and this information will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

A total of 40 lilies will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each plant costs \$18.75 and may be ordered through the church office or via order form in today's bulletin. Payment is due when your order is placed, and checks should be made payable to *First Presbyterian Church*, with "Lily" noted on the memo line. Orders are due by March 26, 2023.

## **RIDES FOR SENIORS**

The Member Care Ministry Team is looking to create a new ministry for Seniors who don't drive anymore. Volunteers will provide a ride to worship, church activities, or doctor appointments.

The way the ministry will work is a Senior needing a ride would contact the coordinator providing the information needed, like where they need to go, date, and time of appointment. The coordinator will send out a group text message to the volunteers. The volunteer that is available on that date and time will respond to that group text. Then that volunteer will contact the Senior to let them know they will help them. Group text works well, because the first person who responds will provide the ride, and the others will know it is covered. This reduces the number of phone calls for both the Senior and the coordinator. The team will do their best to fulfill all requests.

We are seeking a coordinator and volunteers who are willing to give help by giving rides to our senior members. Please contact Emelie North by email ([emkanorth76@windstream.net](mailto:emkanorth76@windstream.net)) or cell phone (336-225-3837).

### CALLING ALL HELPERS

Member Care is starting a new ministry to assist Seniors with small handyman projects, such as changing ceiling light bulbs, changing batteries for smoke detectors, or getting things down from high places.

The way this ministry will work: the Senior will call the coordinator and let that person know what needs to be done. The coordinator will send out a group text to the volunteers, and the first volunteer who responds to the text will then contact the Senior and arrange a date and time to complete the needed task(s).

This is a great ministry for scouts, youth groups, and everyone in the church who has a little time to help out a Senior. We are looking for volunteers and someone willing to serve as coordinator. Contact Emelie North at emkanorth76@windstream.net or 336-225-3837 if you are interested.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Our Men's Breakfast Fellowship meets at Cagney's Kitchen (1244 Fairview Drive, Lexington) each Tuesday morning at 7:15 AM. All men are welcome and encouraged to invite church members, especially visitors and new members, as well as friends, to join in.

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 1:00 PM at Brookdale Assisted Living (161 Young Drive, Lexington). Anyone who is interested in being part of this ministry is invited to join them. If you do not know how to knit or crochet, they will be happy to help you learn. For more information, or if you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact Emelie North at 336-237-9507 or emkanorth76@windstream.net.

### THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP

Each Thursday, our intercessory Prayer Group meets in the church parlor at 11:00 AM to pray for the needs of church members, friends and loved ones of the church family, and others in our community and around the world. Anyone is welcome to participate any week. Praying aloud is not required.

### TWO CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

The Two Cents A Meal Offering is directed toward programs that address hunger in our region. Locally, Pastor's Pantry and First Hope Ministries have received Presbytery grants from this fund. Donations may be placed in the offering plate, made online, or mailed to the church via the PO Box. Please note "2 Cents a Meal" on the donation.

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*Shipping Address:*  
15 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
Lexington NC 27292

*Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 586  
Lexington NC 27293

(336) 248-2140  
office@fpclenx.com  
www.fpclenx.com