



# First Presbyterian Church

## Sunday, March 19, 2023



*Seeking the Faith – Sharing the Spirit - Serving God's People*

You are invited to join us on our journey of faith! We seek to serve God, to minister to our community, and to love one another. Help us in our quest to become an ever more inclusive church that welcomes all people from all backgrounds, abilities, and identities. Come and experience the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.



### Order of Worship

#### Prayer in Preparation

Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see?

Bring us again into your light until your ways become visible to us, and bear fruit in us. Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

#### Prelude

*Come thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Robinson

#### Gathering for Worship

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd. There is nothing we lack.

God guides us in proper paths for the sake of God's good name.

**All: Yes, God's goodness and faithful love will pursue us all the days of our lives. Let us worship God.**

#### \*Hymn #821

*My Life Flows On*

#### Call to Confession

Leader: As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden becomes visible and the shadows of our hearts become illumined by grace.

*\*Please stand as you are able*

## Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let us pray...

**All: Gracious God, we do not stand firmly enough  
with those who are vulnerable,  
but step back, protecting ourselves.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Keep raising us from the deadliness of sin,  
and shine upon us with your grace.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,  
the light of the world. Amen.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: This is the good news: as God's forgiven people we will receive  
God's goodness and mercy and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Giving of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all!

**All: And also with you!**

**\*Response #472**      *Kum ba Yah*

Kum ba Yah, my Lord, kum ba Yah!

Kum ba Yah, my Lord, kum ba Yah!

Kum ba Yah, my Lord, kum ba Yah!

O Lord, kum ba Yah!



**Children's Sermon**      5000 Fish Sandwiches?

## Prayer for Illumination

Reader: Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the scriptures are read and  
proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right  
and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes  
visible in our words and deeds. In Christ's name, we pray. **Amen.**

## Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 23 (OT p. 501)

## Special Music

*How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

Stuart Townend

## New Testament Lesson

John 12:1-8 (NT p. 106)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Proclamation of the Word

Surprised by Lent Strikes Back

## \*Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us affirm our faith together. Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**All: Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.  
Jesus, come in glory. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #7**

*Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

**Invitation to the Offering**

Leader: Our lives overflow with the goodness of God.  
Sharing what we have so abundantly received,  
we now bring our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

**Offertory**

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Anonymous

**\*#606 Doxology**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: O Lord, we long to live as children of light,  
doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ,  
who awakens those who sleep, and raises those who are dead to new life.  
In his name we pray. **Amen.**

**Pastoral Prayer and Congregational Prayer**

**Joys and Concerns** *(In the bulletin, on cards, or via Zoom Chat)*

Minister: We give thanks to God for these blessings.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Minister: For all these people and all who are in need

**All: Please hold your people near, O God!**

Minister: God inspires us to pray, hears our prayers, and answers our prayers.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

Minister: Let us pray...

*Silent Prayer*

Minister: Let us pray together...

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #35**

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

**Announcements**

**Blessing**

Minister: May the love of God pursue you, the light of Christ enfold you,  
and the Holy Spirit keep you as you dwell in the house of the Lord your whole life long.

**Postlude**

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Clephane

## Moment for Reflection



### Worship Assistants

Brenda Myers-Greeter  
Jane Swanson- Worship Assistant  
Jackson Love- Accompanist  
Elwood Prest- AV Tech

Reona Daly- Head Usher  
Carolyn Hooker- Scripture Reader  
Special Music- Mitchell Brandon  
Lisa Hollabaugh- Zoom Greeter

### MARCH 19, 2023

9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
10:45 am Faith Dialogues in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Fellowship

### MARCH 21, 2023

1:00 pm Presbyterian Women

### MARCH 22, 2023

3:30 pm Bible Study via Zoom

### MARCH 26, 2023

9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
10:45 am Faith Dialogues in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Fellowship

**Pastor Kerry's Office Hours:**  
**10:00 am-2:00 pm**  
**Monday through Thursday**

If you would like a visit—or if you know someone who needs a visit—please let Pastor Kerry or one of the Deacons know.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please fill out **Joys and Concerns** cards at the back of the sanctuary prior to the beginning of worship. The cards are on the table as you enter, and there is a basket in which you can place the completed cards. If you are participating via Zoom, use the Chat feature to let the Zoom Greeter know what your Joys and Concerns are. Please complete these as early in the service as possible.

**Faith Dialogues meets today** at 10:45 am and will continue each Sunday through the Lenten season. We are using the book *The Desert of Compassion* as our discussion guide. Copies of the book are available in the workroom.

**Presbyterian Women** will meet Tuesday, March 21 at 1:00 pm in the conference room.

We will be installing new church officers (and thanking those officers who are stepping down) during worship next week, March 26.

Join us for a **Potluck Picnic** after Easter Worship Sunday, April 9 at the Pine Tree Pavilion in Evergreen Park. The festivities begin at 11:30 am.

### Joys and Concerns

*Please let the church office know if someone needs to be added to or removed from the lists below.*

#### Remember to Pray for:

- Those in the destructive path of natural disasters
- Those affected by threats of terrorism, mass shootings, and hate crimes
- Ukraine Situation
- Transgender community under attack legislatively
- Our National, State, Regional, and Community Leaders
- Covid19 Pandemic patients and the ongoing vaccination efforts
- Social unrest and political polarization
- Those who are homeless, hungry, and in harm's way
- Those in shelters on the southern border
- Those who continue to be marginalized and underrepresented
- Service men and women

Each week we pray for one of the Carbondale Interfaith Council faith communities.

This week, please pray for: **First United Methodist Church**

The Mission/Ministry we are praying for this month: **Membership and Deacons**

#### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

God, whenever the cup of gladness overflows, help me to recognize that it is filled with your goodness and mercy. In praise and anticipation, I begin this day; in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

O Lord, I pray that you will improve my eyes of faith so that I can see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly tomorrow, and all my tomorrows. In the name of your Son, my Savior, I pray. Amen.

## #821 *My Life Flows On*

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1 My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

3 What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

## #472 *Kum ba Yah*

Kum ba Yah, my Lord, kum ba Yah!  
Kum ba Yah, my Lord, kum ba Yah!  
Kum ba Yah, my Lord, kum ba Yah!  
O Lord, kum ba Yah!

## **Psalm 23**

A Psalm of David.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

## **John 12:1-8**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

*#7 Mothering God, You Give Me Birth*

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1. Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.  
Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

2 Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,  
grain...of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

3 Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close,  
so that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.

*#606 Praise God from Who All Blessings Flow (Doxology)*

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.

*#35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

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1 Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.