

Morning Song  
March 19, 2023  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
8:45am Fogartie Hall



Welcome

Gathering Song

Prayer of Praise

Songs of Praise

## Prayer of Confession

In our weakness, O God,  
we often fear what we do not understand.  
In our blindness, we fail to see others as you do.  
Yet we long to see as you see and to perceive as you perceive.  
We yearn to cast aside the shadows of the night  
and live as children born anew in the light of your love.  
Forgive us and help us, O God,  
to behold your glory this day,  
that we might reflect your light and love for all to see.

## Assurance of Pardon

Israel's shepherd is our shepherd.  
The Light that leads us through the darkest valleys  
anoints us with love,  
fills our cup to overflowing,  
and brings us goodness and mercy all the days of our lives.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.

## Response

Passing of the Peace

Life of the Church

Children's Time

First Reading

Psalm 23

Second Reading

Matthew 27:45-46

## Sermon

"Why the Cross Matters: Abandonment"

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

## Affirmation of Faith

### A Brief Statement of Faith

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. 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.

## Prayers of the People

### 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.

## Offering

## Song

## Benediction

# Participating in Today's Service

Rev. Alan F. Dyer,  
Senior Pastor

Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise,  
Associate Pastor, Youth and Campus Ministries

Rev. Leslie A. Lang  
Associate Pastor, Young Adults and Missions

Ben Neely  
Youth Reader

## Morning Song Musicians

Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals

Kolby Carrouth, drums

Cooper Cecil, electric guitar

Landon Hammett, keyboard/vocals

Anna Harkey, violin

Leigha Keller, vocals

Jeff Key, bass guitar

Ian Ritchings, vocals

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*Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from  
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion & Abingdon Worship Annual.*

*Offering Plates are not passed during worship.  
Please drop your offering in the baskets as you leave the service.  
You may also give online through this QR Code:*



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First Presbyterian Church is a community of  
believers committed to  
"Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together  
through Word and Deed."