

WELCOME to
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Spartanburg, SC



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

MARCH 19, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

8:45AM CHAPEL

11:00AM SANCTUARY

✠ Please rise in
body or in spirit.

Today is the fourth Sunday in Lent. Lent is a German word related to spring and to the idea that in spring the days are lengthened. The Lenten period is a season of the 40 days before Easter and the Sundays of that period are not counted, as each Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection. Lent is a period of time spent preparing our hearts for the events of Holy Week.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND INVITATION

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

(8:45)

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Dale Wood

(11:00)

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Linda L. Lamb

ACOLYTE (11:00)

INTROIT

O Save Me, God, and Hear my Cry

DETROIT

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

God washes our heads in oil; our cups overflow!

God's goodness and faithful love will pursue us all the days of our lives.

Let us worship God.

Let us worship God together!

✠ HYMN 803

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

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 . . .

SILENT CONFESSION

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

HYMN 437

WAYFARING STRANGER

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another as we share the love and peace of Christ.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (8:45) *Emma Caroline Lindsey*
Daughter of Meredith and Wade Lindsey

RESPONSE *Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.* JESUS LOVES ME
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

*At the 11am service, children ages three years to first grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship;
those second grade and older will return to the pews.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* Taizé Community

FIRST READING Psalm 23

SECOND READING Matthew 27:45-46

SERMON
(8:45) *Why The Cross Matters: Abandonment* Rev. L. Craig Foster
(11:00) Rev. Alan F. Dyer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✠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.

In 1983 the two largest Presbyterian churches in the United States reunited. The "Plan for Reunion" called for the preparation of a brief statement of the Reformed faith for possible inclusion in The Book of Confessions. It celebrates our rediscovery that for all our undoubted diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task.

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.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Even Here

Mark Miller

✠ DOXOLOGY

HYMN 606

OLD HUNDREDDTH

*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.*

✠ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✠ HYMN 816

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

✠ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✠ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 288

LIVING GOD

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

J.S. Bach

It is no accident that what we do on Sunday morning is called a worship "service," and that what we do the rest of the week is our Christian "service." Our service does not end with the benediction, but rather continues into the week and into the world through lives of faith. What this finally means is that the church is not only called to go into the world, but that the world is passionately invited to come into the church. Reformed worship does not embrace mission as an optional component, but perceives our commitment to "be sent" as essential to our call.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Rev. L. Craig Foster
Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Rev. Ansley B. Page

(11:00) Ramsey Neely, Acolyte
(8:45) Alle Marie Marsh and (11:00) Jay Blanton, Youth Readers
(8:45) Eliza Edwards, Baptism Reader and Martha Bean, Baptism Elder

Holt Andrews
Marcia Andrews
Genesis Choir
Chancel Choir
Handbell Choir
Alle Marie Marsh
Lisa Cunningham

The Lenten Greens in the Sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Sally D. and Philip F. Foster and Philip F. (Flip) Foster, Jr.
by Mr. and Mrs. William L. Pope, Jr.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

We believe that children learn to worship by regularly attending church with their families. During the 11:00am Traditional Worship Service, all children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary for *The Word for Children*. Afterwards, children 3K - 1st grade are welcome to attend Children's Worship in the Clark Building with Ms. Kara. During this time, they worship with song and prayer, hear a Bible story, and enjoy art and play. May they know the love of God and the joy of church! After worship, families are asked to pick their children up from Room 202 of the Clark Building. *Nursery available in Room 105 (Toddler) and Room 108 (Crib).*

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE - 9:45 AM

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children - *All Rooms are in the Clark Building*

Nursery - Room C105 and Room C108; Preschool (3K-5K) - Room C110

1st & 2nd Grades - Drop Off in Room C201; Pickup in Room C202

3rd & 4th Grades - Drop Off in Room C201; Pickup in Room C203

5th Grade - Room C206

Youth - *All Youth Rooms are on the Second Floor of the Family Life Center*

Middle Schoolers in the Middle School Room (F201) and High Schoolers in the High School Room (F202)

ADULTS

Abide - Room 2200; **Bible Alive!** - Room 2208 & on Zoom; **Emmaus** - Room 2207; **LIFT** - Room 2201

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, March 19, 2023

PASTORAL CONCERN?

If you need to contact a Minister for a Pastoral Concern, call 864-208-2142 day or night. The minister on-call will answer your call as soon as possible.

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian, come to the Parlor on the second Sunday of the month - **Sunday, May 14** - at 10:30am. Ministers and members of the Session will be there to greet you. Questions? Contact Rev. Joanne Hull; 864-208-2125 / jhull@fpcspartanburg.org.

BLUE WORSHIP BAGS

are available in the Narthex and Tower Room (Traditional Worship) and in the back of Fogartie Hall (MorningSong) for your child to use during worship. After worship, please return the crayons and bags to the baskets. The activity sheet is for your child to keep as a reminder of today's scripture and message.

GYM HOURS

Mon-Thursdays: 7am-8pm
Fridays: 7am-2pm
Saturdays: 8am-12noon

CHAPEL OPEN

The Chapel is open for Prayer Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, for you to come and sit and pray in the stillness of God. You may place any personal prayer needs in the Chapel prayer box and a member of our staff will pray over your requests.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Jesus' last words spoken from the cross embody the fullness of the human experience - suffering, abandonment, forgiveness, distress, and ultimately triumph and reunion with God. The *Seven Last Words* sermon series invites us to spend Lent exploring again what the cross reveals to us about the nature and character of God and why the cross matters for our lives and faith today.

WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST (WAF!) - MARCH 22

Come for Food, Faith, and Fellowship! Dinner served starting at 5:00pm in Fogartie Hall. Pre-registration for dinner is required by noon on Monday; online payment is preferred (fpcspartanburg.org/waf).

Menu: Adults: Creamy Ranch Chicken and Noodles, Green Beans, Salad Bar, Bread, and Dessert; Children: Chicken Tenders w/dipping sauces, Mac & Cheese, Fruit Cup, and Dessert

Schedule (see Calendar ---- >)

Children's Choir Program (see article below)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PROGRAM - MARCH 22

This Wednesday, March 22, our Children's Choirs will present "God's Hands and Feet" at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Mark Your Calendars Now!

VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Registration for this summer's Vacation Bible School is OPEN! Use the QR code to register your rising 4K to rising 6th grader(s). We are starting with 2 weeks of registration just for our First Pres family, before opening it up to others at a later date. Don't miss out; get your kiddos registered before March 26. Cost is \$20 per child; \$50 family max. Questions? Contact Kara Clark (kclark@fpcspartanburg.org).



Use this QR Code to go to the Church WAF Page for your Dinner Registration

WEEKDAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER!

The WDS is having a Moe's Pop-Up Fundraiser! The taco kit feeds 4-6 people; each kit includes chicken & ground beef, black beans, rice, queso, shredded cheese, shredded lettuce, Pico de Gallo, sour cream, salsa, chips & 12 flour tortillas. The price is \$39.99 plus tax! All orders must be placed by Monday, March 27 at 4:00pm (pickup on March 28 at noon in the FLC parking lot). If you would like to order a taco kit, please use this QR Code. Thank you for supporting our Weekday School!!



THE GREAT PRESBYTERIAN PICTURE PUSH

Let us Snap Your Smile! To strengthen our connections as a church family, we are updating church member photos in our Online Pictorial Directory – “Shelby”. **Our goal is to get a recent picture of every member in Shelby by mid-April.** Therefore, starting today, Sunday, March 19, we will have stations set up in the FLC Lobby and in the Perrin Room for us to take pictures of you and/or your family. No need to dress up – come as you are! Additional photo times will be held on following Sundays and during WAF (all dates and times are posted on the web). If you cannot make it, feel free to submit your photo. This QR Code will direct you to a form where you may upload your picture. Thanks!



WOMEN’S RETREAT - AUGUST 2023

First Presbyterian Church has reserved spaces for 28 women to go to the **Montreat Women’s Connection, August 11-13.** We have also reserved the entirety of the charming, historic, (and air conditioned!) Glen Rock Inn for our group, right in the heart of Montreat, with ample gathering space for participants to enjoy together. Meals will be in Assembly Inn.

The Keynoter for the 2023 Montreat Women’s Connection Conference is Kate Bowler. Kate is a three-time New York Times bestselling author, podcast host, and an associate professor of American religious history at Duke University. Other conference leadership includes Rev. Kathryn Johnston and Dr. Margaret Aymer.

For more information about the conference, use this QR Code:



WELCOME CLASS - APRIL 16

On Sunday, April 16, we will have a special Welcome Class, 12:00-2:00pm in the Large Private Dining Room. Lunch will be included. If you are interested in joining or learning more about First Presbyterian Church, please RSVP to Joanie Shackleton (jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org / 864-208-2132); this will help us with planning. Thank you.

TRY THE NEW KIOSK!

We are experimenting with the uses of a kiosk and would love for you to try it out. During the week, it is located in the Financial/Columbarium offices – just outside of Lynise Clarke’s office. On Sundays, it can be found in the Perrin Room. You can “Register for an Event” (such as WAF, the 1843 Endowment Dinner, or other upcoming events), or you can “Give Now” to any of the church funds through our secure online giving portal. If you have any questions, please contact Lynise Clarke, Church Financial Officer (lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org or 864-208-2130).

SAVE THE DATE: HOMECOMING - SUNDAY, APRIL 30

9:45am: Panel with Former Pastors; 11:00am Worship; Lunch afterwards

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Great Presbyterian Picture Push

8:45am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary)

8:45am MorningSong Worship
(Fogartie Hall)

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary)

5:00pm Sunday Night Youth
(Family Life Center)

WAF, MARCH 22

5:00pm Dinner Line Opens
(Fogartie Hall)

6:30pm Youth Fellowship & Study
(Youth Rooms - Upstairs, FLC)

6:30pm Children’s Choir Program
(Sanctuary)

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
(Choir Room)

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Stephen Minister Commissioning

The Great Presbyterian Picture Push

8:45am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary)

8:45am MorningSong Worship
(Fogartie Hall)

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary)

12:30pm Acts 2 Lunch
(off-site)

5:00pm Sunday Night Youth
(Family Life Center)

5:30pm Acts 2 Dinners
(off-site)

LOOKING FORWARD

APRIL 2

Palm Sunday

APRIL 6

Maundy Thursday

5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Worship
(Fogartie Hall)

APRIL 7

Good Friday

12:00pm Midday Prayer Service
(Chapel)

7:00pm Tenebrae Service
(Sanctuary)

TO PONDER PRAYERFULLY

“The cross is not some arbitrary demand of God imposed on a hapless victim, but a marker where human beings find themselves at the intersection of justice and mercy, time and eternity, death and life.”

- Eamon Duffy

Ministers: All Members of the Church

We are a community of believers committed to “Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together through Word and Deed.”

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor
Discipleship and Communications

Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Associate Pastor
Congregational Care and Deacons

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

Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Associate Pastor
Youth and Campus Ministries

Rev. Ansley B. Page
Pastoral Associate for Engagement

Holt Andrews
Pastoral Musician

Marcia Andrews
Associate Director of Music; Organist

Kara Clark
Director of Children's Ministries

Carrie Coleman
Youth Leader

Beth Cecil
Parish Nurse

Colleen Darrall
Director of Recreation

Pano Stathakis
Director of Hospitality

Kris Graham
Director of the Weekday School

Lisa Cunningham
MorningSong Band Director

Lee Raines
Facilities Administrator

Jim Pitts
Campus Safety and Services Manager

Lynise Clarke
Church Financial Officer

Monteigne Campbell
Office Manager and
Admin to the Senior Pastor

Joanie Shackleton
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Ian Ritchings
Administrative Assistant
Missions, Young Adults, Communications

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin to Music

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Red Cartledge
Custodians

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