

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 6, 2022 • 8:00 a.m.



Welcome Table
Joel Schoon-Tanis

Please join in reading and singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.
* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

arr. Penny Rodriguez

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: For forty days and nights the rain fell,
and the waters covered the face of the earth.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: For forty years the people wandered, seeking the land of God's promise.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: Moses spent forty days on the mountain,
learning the commandments of God.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness
to hear the voice of God in the silence.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh,
"Repent, or in forty days you will perish."

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days and was tested by the devil.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: This is Lent and into its wilderness God welcomes us.

All: Let us worship the Triune God of grace and mercy.

* HYMN 166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Led by the crafter of lies, Lord God, we wander into the wasteland of wrong-doing. We hunger for more and more, and feel emptier and emptier. We seek power, especially over others, only to do harm. By our choices, we worship the false gods of success, wealth, and spectacle.

Have mercy on us, God of love, and forgive us for the power we give to temptation in our lives. Help us to become as vulnerable as Jesus, for in that vulnerability, we find the humility to trust you in all things; in that trust, we discover the grace which sets us free from the grasp of the shrewd one; in that freedom, we can leave our badlands behind, in order to follow Jesus in this life, and into the next...

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

Have mer - cy. — Have mer - cy — Lord. Have mer - cy. —
— Have mer - cy — Lord. Have mer - cy.

This is *Psalm 123: Have Mercy* by Greg Scheer.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as God's people. Greet one another saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and respond, "And also with you."

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee.
Spring thou up within my heart.
Rise to all eternity.

This is Stanza 4 of Hymn 440, *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* (ABERYSTWYTH).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16

God is a shelter where we can hide from the storm,
the shadow where we can be safe from the hot sun.

Here's what I say: "God, I know I can always trust you.
I run to you and grab on to you when I need you."

When I call God's name, God answers.

God is beside me when I'm in trouble.

If you make God the house you live in,
nothing bad can happen to you.

God will assign angels to you, to follow you, to keep you close.
They will hold you in their arms, and watch your back.

When I call God's name, God answers.

God is beside me when I'm in trouble.

Nothing can hurt you—not lions, not snakes.

In fact, lions and snakes will be scared of you!

God will say, I will protect that one there, because I know she loves me.

I will rescue her from trouble,

because she knows my Name and knows how to use it.

When she calls out my Name I will answer. I will be with her
in trouble. I will bring her back to a place where she can be
proud of herself, and not frightened.

I will reward her with a good long life,
and show her what real living is all about."

When I call God's name, God answers.

God is beside me when I'm in trouble.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 4:1–13

The grass withers, the flower fades; **the word of the Lord endures forever.**

SERMON

RESPONDING AND SEALING

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

My Song Is Love Unknown
Chancel Choir Section Leaders

Edwin Childs

My song is love unknow, My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Sometimes they strew his way and his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day hosannas to their king.
Then "Crucify" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what has my Lord done to cause this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, and gave the blind their sight.
What injuries! Yet these are why the Lord most high so cruelly dies.

Here might I stay and sing of him my soul adores.
Never was love, dear king, never was grief like yours!
This is my friend in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.
My song is love.

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please see the Communion Card.

SENDING

* HYMN 698

Take, O Take Me as I Am

TAKE ME AS I AM

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

In the name of Jesus —
Let us Love...**with Open Hearts!**
Let us Learn...**with Open Minds!**
Let us Serve...**with Open Arms!**

Please remain seated until the conclusion of the Closing Voluntary.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

We are glad you are here! Please sign our Friendship Pad. If you are worshipping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, please sign the pad on our website to let us know you are here or you may click here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2OFFlvBmiZ1jQUGxeXcsAIDITp2WEYep5mnjyQYMXbHHndA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>.

The 9:30 worship service is broadcast on WAAM 1600 radio at 11:00 a.m.

Worship Leaders: Liturgist – Megan Berry and Hannah Lundberg; Scripture Reader – Cheryl Gulbranson ; Preacher – Mark Mares; Communion servers – Cheryl and Ron Gulbranson; Pianist – Eric Banitt; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Chancel Choir Section Leaders.

Join us for Coffee Hour today in the Social Hall immediately following the Closing Voluntary.

Use the offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love and to consider your own response in loving service. As you consider making your offering, remember that the church's regular expenses continue in these difficult times. And the community around us needs your financial support: your faithful giving is like the breath of life to mission programs we love, neighbor in need, members who are hurting. Thank you for your faithful generosity! Ways to give include online on our First Pres website, via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523), using our Vanco Mobile app, putting a check in the mail, or scanning the QR code on the right.



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FIRST SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION: PACKING LUNCH SACKS

All children, youth, and adults are invited to join in this activity in the Social Hall at 11:00 a.m. Lunch sacks for community members in need will be prepared using donations that have been dropped off during the last month. Sacks will be delivered to Hope Clinic for distribution this week. Participants in **The Bible at 11 o'clock, First Friends, and Exploring the Faith** will join our children and youth in this activity.

Lent Art Exhibit

All are invited to attend the opening of this special art exhibit **today**, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., in the Social Hall. Join us for a simple supper and seminar with Don Saliers, about the work of *Visio Divina* based on two different Stations of the Cross art exhibits. Child care is available.

FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fast-Track to Membership today, Sunday, March 6, at 11:00 a.m. Interested in joining? We make it easy! Join us in the Lead Pastor's office for about 20 minutes to meet with a pastor and two Elders. A new member class follows, offered multiple times per year, for those who feel moved to join. For more information, contact Rev. Rogers (mr Rogers@firsptresbyterian.org or 662-4466, ext. 390).

Our March donations and financial contributions support Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti. Non-perishable food may be placed in the bin provided in the Social Hall on Sundays, Mondays–Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Financial gifts may be made by check or online. Donations will be coordinated by Presbyterian Women.

Expand Your Faith with Presbyterian Women. Join us for Bible study this week.

Women's Morning Horizons Bible Study: Murder, Politics, Survival

Thursday, March 10, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Curtis Room or Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84155918470>)

"Evenings with Jenna" Bible Study

Thursday, March 10, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Curtis Room or Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84155918470>)

This friendly and informal group, led by Jenna Mares, is open to ALL ...women, men, members, visitors! Discussion is varied and lively. Contact Jenna for more information at jenna.harms66@gmail.com.

Wilderness | Welcome is our theme for Lenten worship. Each Sunday we will wrestle with Scripture passages that deal with questions of hospitality, loneliness, discovery, loss, and hope in the midst of wilderness moments. Many of us have been living in the wilderness for far too long.



WILDERNESS
welcome

LENT 2022

This Lent, we enter our third year of pandemic life with losses and hard realities all around us. Often, as we navigate these places of uncertainty and pain, our first instinct is to turn inward and to clench our fists until we can make it to the other side. Our faith invites us to a different response: one where fear leads us to turn toward one another, to rely on God's presence, to build love and support for all, and to trust that we do not journey on difficult roads alone. God calls us to welcome the wilderness and to turn wilderness into welcome.

Worship Themes:

Sunday, March 6	A Table in the Wilderness
Sunday March 13	Wondering in the Wilderness
Sunday, March 20	Lost in the Wilderness (Youth Service)
Sunday, March 27	Found in the Wilderness
Sunday, April 3	Alone in the Wilderness
Sunday, April 10	Stories of Wilderness

OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD COMMUNITY DURING LENT

Lenten Email Devotions

Begin each day with a Lenten email devotion written by church members and staff. Sign up with Rev. Rogers (mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).

Easter Flowers

Flowers are \$18 each and may be ordered in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor or recognition of someone still living. All orders must be placed by Palm Sunday, April 10. Use [this link](https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/easter-lilies/) to order flowers: <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/easter-lilies/>.

Home Worship Gatherings

Simple worship gatherings will be held in various homes on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. throughout the season of Lent. Gatherings are limited to a maximum of 15 people. Please use this link to sign up for a home worship gathering: <https://bit.ly/3uD4fr6>.

Wilderness | Walking

Join your church family for a weekly walk in Lent. All are welcome! Information on dates, times, locations, and sign up is available online using this link: bit.ly/3oAMTY9.

AGO Organ Series

Join us throughout Lent for a free concert series weekly, March 11 through April 8, at 12:00 p.m., in our Sanctuary. On March 25, David Hufford, FPC Organist, and Lucy Trumbull Baum, Artist, will create a rich organ concert and visual art in a concert titled A Feast for the Eyes and Ears. All are welcome to attend these free, hour-long concerts!

En la Mesa de Dios // At God's Table: A Stations of the Cross Experience

April 3–17 | Sundays, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Mondays – Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Experience the Holy Week narrative by taking in the art of *En la mesa de Dios / At God's Table*, illustrated by Joel Schoon-Tanis. Both an audio track to help in the walk-through and a pamphlet will be available to guide you as you experience multi-sensory stations of the cross in this unique format. All ages are welcome! *En la Mesa de Dios* is located in the Children's Wing on the third level.

Pastoral & Program Staff

Eric Banitt, *Accompanist / Pianist*

Rev. Megan Berry, *Resident Minister*

Barbara DeLancey, *Parish Nurse*

David Hufford, *Organist*

Rev. Hannah Lundberg, *Resident Minister*

Rev. Mark Mares, *Minister of Youth & Families*

Rev. Evans McGowan, *Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries*

Stacey Pakela, *Parish Nurse*

Shayla Powell, *Children's Choir Director*

Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Jay Sanderford, *Associate Pastor*

Beca Torres-Davenport, *Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry*

David VanderMeer, *Minister of Music & Fine Arts*



Rev. Matthew J. Warfield

Resident Minister

(In Memoriam)