



March 20, 2022

The Third Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

Please visit the church website: www.firstpresevansville.com to stay up-to-date on our ministry and service opportunities.

Please visit our Facebook page - [First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, Indiana](#). We hope you'll "like" us!

Please note that this service is being livestreamed on our website and Facebook page, and the recording will be posted to our [YouTube](#) channel.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

**Let those who are able stand at this sign.*

THE MUSIC FOR GATHERING

"Improvised Fugue May 27, 2011 at St. Sulpice, Paris"

David Briggs, transcribed by Wibberly

THE INTROIT

"Create In Me A Clean Heart"

Healey Willan

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Everyone who thirsts:

All Come to the waters, seek the Lord,
repent and return so that you may live.

One All who are hungry for righteousness:

All Come to the waters, seek the Lord,
repent and return so that you may live.

One All who need the help of God:

All Come to the waters, seek the Lord,
repent and return so that you may live.

***THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 694**

"Great God of Every Blessing"

*Aurelia/Samuel Sebastian Wesley
David Gambrell*

**Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
You are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

**Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
In death and life extending your covenant embrace,
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

**Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
Transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

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***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(in unison)*

**Holy God, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you.
You set before us a rich feast of blessing,
but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy.
You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world,
but we indulge our own desires.
Our ways are not your ways;
our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts.
Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives.
Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life.
Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are,
in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be.
We ask this in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE KYRIE . . . no. 551**

"Lord, Have Mercy"

*Land of Rest; arr. Richard Proulx
Traditional Liturgical Text*

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

***THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 437**

"You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!"

*Wayfaring Stranger/ Appalachian Folk Melody
Traditional Liturgical Text*

**You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!**

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THE WORDS OF WELCOME

**The Greeting Among the People of God
The Concerns of the Church**

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

THE PSALM FOR THE DAY

Psalm 16

- One O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- All **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
- One For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
My lips shall give you praise.
- All **So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**
- One My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- All **when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
- One For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- All **My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

THE ANTHEM

"A Hymne to Christ"

Imogen Holst

*In what torne ship soever I embarke, that ship shall be my emblem of thy Arke;
What sea soever swallow mee, that flood shall be to mee an emblem of thy blood;
Though thou with clouds of anger do disguise Thy face;
Yet through that maske I know those eyes, which, though they turne away sometimes, they never will despise.
I sacrifice this Island unto thee, and all whome I lov'd there, and who lov'd mee;
When I have put our seas twixt them and mee, put thou thy sea betwixt my sinnes and thee.
As the trees sap doth seeke the root below in winter, in my winter now I goe,
where none but thee, th'Eternall root of true Love I may know.*

- John Donne, verses from A Hymne to Christ

THE LESSON

Luke 13:1-9

"At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

THE SERMON

the Rev. Molly DeWitt

"Bearing Fruit"

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO A HOLY LENT

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE HYMN . . . no. 429

"As a Chalice Cast of Gold"

Inward Light / Carol Doran
Thomas H. Troeger

As a chalice cast of gold, burnished, bright and brimmed with wine,
make me Lord, as fit to hold grace and truth and love divine.
Let my praise and worship start with the cleansing of my heart.

Save me from the soothing sin of empty cultic deed
and the pious, babbling din of the claimed but un-lived creed.
Let my actions, Lord, express what my tongue and lips profess.

When I bend upon my knees, clasp my hands, or bow my head,
Let my spoken, public pleas be directly, simply said,
Free of tangled words that mask what my soul would plainly ask.

When I dance or chant your praise, when I sing a psalm or hymn,
When I preach your loving ways, let my heart add its Amen.
Let each cherished outward rite thus reflect your inward light.

-from "New Hymns for the Lectionary" © 1985, Oxford University Press, Inc. By permission.

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*in unison*)

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

- from *The Confession of 1967* Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at <http://firstpresevanosville.com/giving/>

The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings . . . no. 606

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Old Hundredth
Thomas Ken

**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.**

The Prayer of Dedication

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Spoken Prayers

The Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**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.**

WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*THE CLOSING HYMN . . . no. 624

Toulon/Genevan Psalter

"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

Psalms, Strasbourg

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art, my only trust and Savior of my heart,
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake; I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace, reigning omnipotent in every place:
so come, O King, and our whole being sway; shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

Thou art the life, by which alone we live, and all our substance and our strength receive;
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power, and give us strength in every trying hour.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness; no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.
O grant to us the grace we find in thee, that we may dwell in perfect unity.

Our hope is in no other save in thee; our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure, that in thy strength we evermore endure.

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

John Rutter

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

THE POSTLUDE

"Sortie" (Op. 96)

Mélanie Bonis

Leading worship this morning:

Guest Preacher the Rev. Molly DeWitt

Liturgist Scott Wylie

Director of Music Robert Nicholls

The Choir of First Presbyterian Church

We welcome and thank the Rev. Molly DeWitt for joining our worship today. Molly is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and is serving her first official call as Program Director at Camp Pyoca, the summer camp and year-round retreat center affiliated with the PC(USA) in Brownstown Indiana. She loves teaching campers about God and creation care, and in her spare time can be found working in the camp garden or foraging in the camp.

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

First Pres is grateful to be able to continue **in-person worship**. If you're joining us in-person, please wear a mask, use sanitizer, and maintain social distancing. We ask everyone to wear masks so that those who are unable to be vaccinated are protected while we are together.

Sunday School - it's not just for kids! Join Pete Ruthenburg and John Whinrey in the "**Bible Bunch**" room **Sundays at 9:30 a.m.** as they lead the Seekers Sunday School class. Not able to join in-person? Longtime Bible Bunch teacher Jean Beckman leads an online class **via Zoom on Sundays at 2:00 p.m.** If you would like to join this virtual class, email Jean Beckman at jb37@evansville.edu to be added to the Zoom invitation list.

As local pandemic conditions improve, the Session is making gradual changes to First Pres' **COVID safety protocols**. **Today**, we are opening some of the seating in the Sanctuary, and adding seating to the Wide Awake service. The Session continues to ask all in congregant settings to wear a mask, use sanitizer, and social distance when possible, so we may continue to offer a safe place to those who are vulnerable.

Jerusha Van Camp has answered "**how to get connected to First Pres online**" questions in two separate sessions recently. If you haven't been able to attend one of the sessions, but still have questions, you can still be in touch with Jerusha by email or phone: 812-423-6297; jerusha@firstpresevansville.com.

Robert Nicholls and friends present a **concert** of Baroque chamber music on **Sunday, April 3 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. Robert will open the program with J.S. Bach's *Trio Sonata No.1 in Eb major*, BWV 525, for organ solo. Leanne Hampton will join Robert at the harpsichord for J.S. Bach's *Sonata for Flute in G minor*, BWV 1020. Lastly, Elizabeth Robertson, Oboe, and Graham Cullen, Cello, join Robert and Leanne for Joachim Quantz's *Trio in C*. All of pieces are trios as we celebrate entering our third century of ministry! Join us for an afternoon of sonic beauty as we experience the healing power of live music together.

Some people give up favorite foods for Lent. How about providing food for someone who is hungry instead? The Mission Committee has arranged for First Pres to be the regular provider of **lunch** for the guests of **United Caring Services** on the second Friday of each month. Our next day during lent is **Friday, April 8**. You can be of service without needing to enter UCS or work on a serving line. The Mission Committee has funds available to reimburse your costs. They can also suggest menus or shopping lists if you're uncertain about how to get started. Contact Mission Committee chair Ronda Hurt [(812) 202-9961 or ronda2265@gmail.com] to volunteer or for more information.

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Mark Fox

Sunday, March 20

Daily Reading: Psalm 42

7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal

8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Tech Class

10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

1:30 p.m. Bible Bunch (online)

6:00 p.m. Session Meeting (online)

6:30 p.m. First Light

Monday, March 21

Daily Reading: John 7:14-36

10:00 a.m. Mission Committee (online)

Tuesday, March 22

Daily Reading: John 7:37-52

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 23

Daily Reading: John 8:12-20

Thursday, March 24

Daily Reading: John 8:21-32

6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 25

Daily Reading: John 8:33-47

Saturday, March 26

Daily Reading: John 8:47-59



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

THANK YOU, GOD
FOR CONNECTING US.

THANK YOU
FOR NEIGHBORS,
EACH WITH NEEDS
AND GIFTS TO SHARE,
AND FOR OUR CHURCH,
THE WHOLE CHURCH,
TOGETHER,
AND FOR
JESUS CHRIST,

AMEN.



DURING LENT, WE CELEBRATE
THAT GOD CONNECTS WITH US
THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION
AND CONNECTS US WITH
"THOSE WHO HAVE LEAST" —
AND THAT'S WHAT
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
(OGHS) IS ALL ABOUT.

Peter Michael Egwudah, program coordinator for the Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication (CISCOPE) in Nigeria, says, "Nigeria is one of the wealthiest, oil-producing countries in the world with an abundance of natural resources but the money doesn't go where it needs to go, to the people.

The people need food and seeds but we also need to get communities to a place where they can become agents of their own self development. We can train them in new agricultural techniques and help amplify the voice of women to ensure they get a good return when they bring their produce to market."

One Great Hour of Sharing partners with CISCOPE to work toward the Matthew 25 goal of eradicating systemic poverty.

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE —

- + Through your congregation
- + Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/give-oghs
- + Text OGHS to 91999 to give



Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

To learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, visit pcusa.org/oghs

First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Director of Music
Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator
Parish Visitor
Office Administrator

Robert Nicholls
Jerusha Van Camp
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