

February 18, 2024

The First Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m.



First Presbyterian Church

609 South East Second Street

Evansville, Indiana 47713

(812)423-6297

www.fpcevv.com

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.fpcevv.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

**You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

THE PRELUDE

"Kind Maker of the World"

arr. Robert Nicholls

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.

-Psalm 51:10-12

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One This Lent, we will fast from hurting words

All and say kind words.

One This Lent, we will fast from sadness

All and be filled with gratitude.

One This Lent, we will fast from anger

All and be filled with patience.

One This Lent, we will fast from pessimism

All and be filled with hope.

One This Lent, we will fast from worries

All and trust in God.

One This Lent, we will fast from complaints
All **and contemplate simplicity.**
One This Lent, we will fast from pressures
All **and be prayerful.**
One This Lent, we will fast from bitterness
All **and fill our hearts with joy.**

***THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 167**

Aus der tiefe Rufe ich; arr. Martin Herbst
George Hunt Smyttan

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

**Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.**

**Shall not we your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?**

**Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint nor fail!**

**So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served you faithfully.**

**Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.**

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

**God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according
to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in
systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others.**

**Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you
set before us. Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil in its
many guises, and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. In covenantal
love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety
and new life. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 782, verse 1**
"Hear My Prayer, O God"

Hymn Chant; Hal H. Hopson
Carl P. Daw, Jr.

**Hear my prayer, O God, and listen to my plea;
faithful, righteous One, give ear and answer me.
Judge me not, I pray; no merit dare I clam;
knowing my own faults, I trust in your name.**

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Announcements

WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PSALM

Psalm 25:1-10

One To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
All **my God, I put my trust in you;**
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

One Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

All **Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

One Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

All **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,**
for they are from everlasting.

One Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

All **Gracious and upright are you, O Lord;**
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

One You guide the humble in doing right and teach your way to the lowly.

All **O Lord, all your paths are love and faithfulness**
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

THE ANTHEM

“Remember Not, Lord, Our Offences”

Henry Purcell

*Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers;
Neither take thou vengeance of our sins, but spare us, good Lord.
Spare thy people, whom thou has redeemed with thy most precious blood,
and be not angry with us for ever.
Spare us, good Lord.*

- from the *Litany, Book of Common Prayer*

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you - the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you - every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.” So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Following the Children’s Moment, those in PreK through 5th grades may go to Sunday School. Parents may pick up their children after worship from Room 107 in the education wing.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:9-15

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

One The Gospel of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Anna von Winckler

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE HYMN . . . no. 164

*West Main; John D. Horman
Sylvia G. Dunstan*

"Down Galilee's Slow Roadways"

Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on
from Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John.
He went down to the waters like soldier, scribe, and slave,
but there within the river the sign was birth and grave.

Arising from the river he saw the heavens torn;
it seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form.
The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice:
"You are my own beloved, my child, my heart, my choice."

We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place.
We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace.
But now beside this water again a voice is heard.
"You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord."

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*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*in unison*)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

- from A Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA)

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

Envelopes are available in the pew rack, or you may give online at fpcevv.com/giving

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

George J. Elvey; arr. Ricky Lombardo

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

Old Hundredth

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

Thomas Ken

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*The Prayer of Dedication

The Choral Response

“The Lord Now Bless”

Danby; arr. Robert Nicholls

The Lord now bless from heaven above, and shine on you with radiant face;

The Lord who heaven and earth has made illumine you with peace and grace. - Arlo D. Duba

THE PRAYERS

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People

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. 166

St. Favian; Day's Psalter

“Lord, Who Throughout these Forty Days”

Claudia F.I. Hernaman

**Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.**

**As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.**

**And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.**

**Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.**

***THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION**

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

“Grant to your servants, O God”

Richard Lloyd

*Grant to your servants, O God, to be set on fire with your love,
to be strengthened by your power, to be illuminated by your Spirit,
to be filled with your grace, and to go forward by your help;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THE POSTLUDE

“Fantasia in G minor” (BWV 542)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor Anna von Winckler

Liturgist Jessica Montgomery

Director of Music Robert Nicholls

The Choir of First Presbyterian Church

The Handchime Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Micaiah Van Camp, Director

The Flute Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Dick Bernhardt, Director

The Call to Worship was written by Pope Francis, 2017

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Devotionals for the season of **Lent** are available digitally and in paper form. The entries are written by a variety of contributors, and take on the idea of making *local pilgrimages* - visits to places in the community where the writers' daily habits don't usually take them. Paper copies of the **daily reflections** are available on the marble table in the lobby, and digital editions are available on our [website](#) in addition to our weekly e-newsletter, *Connect*.

Join Pastor Anna this **Lent for a weekly study** based on Matthew 25. In addition to taking a deeper dive into the details of the scripture itself, the study will lead participants to look for ways in which the PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 vision calls us to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty. Consider taking on the call of Jesus to do justice, act with mercy, and love kindness as part of your Lenten practice this year. Duplicate sessions will take place on **Wednesdays at 1:00 and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. starting this week.**

The congregation is invited to the **wedding** ceremony of Joanna McCormick Fleming and Harris Parvaze on **Saturday, April 13, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Ronda Hurt

Sunday, February 18

7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Choir Rehearsal
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Children's Sunday School
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
5:30 p.m. First Light

Monday, February 19

6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, February 20

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
3:45 p.m. Choir Teens
4:45 p.m. Handbell/Chime Rehearsal
5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 21

1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Worship Committee
6:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Thursday, February 22

4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
4:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. PNC
6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study

Friday, February 23

Church Office Closed

Saturday, February 24



First Pres is a Matthew 25 church, which means our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31-46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world. As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, First Pres seeks to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty.

Dismantling Structural Racism

Racism is deeply embedded in the life and history of the US. Through colonization, slavery, and a shameful history of legislative action and judicial pronouncements, our nation created and embraced a system that valued and devalued people based simply on skin color and ethnic identity. People of color were deliberately subjugated for material, political, and social advantage. Racism today is the continuing and enduring legacy of this history.

There is a growing awareness among Presbyterians that racism is a crisis and must be addressed. The PC(USA) is strongly committed to the struggle for racial justice.

Why do we talk about *structural racism*?

Racism is not primarily about individual prejudice or an individual's beliefs and attitudes. Rather, racism in the US is a socially constructed system. Some people are advantaged, and others are disadvantaged, merely because of their skin color, ethnic identity, or their ancestral background. Social power and prejudice have combined to treat people differently, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Some people are privileged while others are oppressed. As a consequence, there is unequal and inequitable access to resources such as money, education, information, and decision-making power.

What is structural racism?

Confronting deeply ingrained racist systems and structures in our communities and country takes sensitivity and stamina. Before congregations and worshiping communities can confront the harsh realities of racism, it is helpful to have a good foundation.

Structural racism is the normalizing of racism within institutions and structures. Once racism is structural and institutional (as it is in the United States), it creates ongoing, persistent inequality. Inequality occurs in accessing money, land, housing, education, health, information, and social power. Because inequality is a part of the structures and institutions that we interact with every day, it often goes unquestioned and unchallenged by most of society or the dominant culture. In the United States, structural racism particularly advantages white people while producing negative impacts for people of color.



Structural racism can show up in multiple ways, including:

- Housing discrimination that limits where people can live and steers them to rental markets rather than home ownership.
- Laws and policies that deny people of color access to quality education, employment, and adequate health care.
- Food apartheid - areas deliberately devoid of quality, affordable fresh food.
- Mass incarceration and criminal justice systems that disproportionately target people of color with lengthier sentences, “stop-and-frisk” laws, the over-policing of communities of color, the school-to-prison pipeline, etc.
- Environmental racism - the dumping of hazardous waste, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of access to clean water that results in a range of serious health problems in people of color.



The theology behind dismantling structural racism

Racism is anti-Christian. In 2016, the General Assembly of the PC(USA) approved a comprehensive churchwide anti-racism policy called “Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community.” The policy states *“Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others. It is also a lie about God, for it falsely claims that God favors parts of creation over the entirety of creation. Because of our Biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC(USA) must stand, speak, and work against racism. Anti-racist effort is not optional for Christians. It is an essential aspect of Christian discipleship, without which we fail to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.”*

Structural racism is not only the “opposite of what God intends for humanity,” but it is also an example of how sin is systemic rather than simply personal. As the PC(USA)’s anti-racism policy states, “Reformed theology offers a nuanced understanding of sin. Calvin did not understand sin to be simply an individual belief, action, or moral failing (*Calvin*, 1960). Rather, he viewed sin as the corporate state of all humanity. It is an infection that taints each of us and all of us. No part of us - not our perception, intelligence, nor conscience - is unclouded by sin.”

Psalm 13:3 and Romans 3:10 remind us, “There is no one just, not even one.” The PC(USA)’s policy also reminds us that this realization “does not mean that human beings are awful. Rather, it means that we must have humanity about our own righteousness, and that we must cling to the grace of God in Jesus Christ.”

Scriptures for study and reflection

Matthew 25:31-46, Genesis 1:1-31, Psalm 104, Acts 10:9-23, 1 John 4:7-8, Ephesians 2:19, Isaiah 65:17-25, Micah 6:8, mark 7:27-28

For more information: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism/>