

# Everybody's Church

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

Sunday, March 3, 2024, 10:00 am, Third Sunday in Lent

## Vision Statement

As Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

## Inclusion Statement

As Everybody's Church we strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other life circumstance.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lou Nyiri

## CHORAL INTROIT "Love Has Broken Down the Wall"

Miller

Chancel Choir

*The music this morning is offered as an act of worship, therefore, please refrain from applause.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Will Dinkeloo

One: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.

Many: **Help us to hear your word and obey it, that we may become instruments of your saving love; through Jesus the Christ our Lord and our Savior.**

One: Let all who thirst come to the waters and all who are hungry come and be fed.

All: **Let us worship God!**

## †HYMN 401

"Here in This Place"

†When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or in spirit.

Please join in reading those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Hymntune: GATHER US IN

## TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Martha Piesko

*After Time With the Younger Church, children 3 years old—5th grade will proceed to their classrooms.*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Ted Thode

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Confession acknowledges the reality of sin in our personal and corporate lives. This practice relieves us from the burden of sin and reminds us of the promise of God's forgiveness and grace sealed in our baptism.

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## †RESPONSE

“Jesus, Remember Me” (sung twice)

Je- sus re - mem- ber me when You come in- to Your king - dom.

Je- sus, re - mem- ber me when You come in- to Your king- dom.

The image shows two staves of music in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**One:** Gracious God, our way in the wilderness,  
guide us, by your Word, through these forty days.

**Many:** Ever-present God, minister to us with your Holy Spirit,  
so we may be reformed, restored, and renewed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## FIRST TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 19

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God!

## SECOND TESTAMENT LESSON

John 2:13-22

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God!

## SERMON

“Meaningful Encounters”

Rev. Lou Nyiri

*“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” – Psalm 19:14*

## OFFERING INFORMATION

*Members and guests, please sign the Fellowship Pads  
to let us know of your presence with us.*

## OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND RESOURCES

## MUSICAL OFFERING

“His River, His Peace”  
Chancel Choir

Kern

## †THE DOXOLOGY

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.

## INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

## THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Please follow along with the reading on page 498 of the Old Testament in your Pew Bible.

Please follow along with the reading on page 93 of the New Testament in your Pew Bible.

All that we have is a gift from God. In gratitude, we return a portion of those blessings to the work of God in the church.

You are invited to contribute your loose change to the offering plate. This loose change goes to the Deacons to help support their efforts to meet the immediate needs of food, clothing and shelter in our greater community. Those quarters (and dollars) really add up to help those in need!

**People:** And also with you.  
**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.  
**People:** We lift them to the Lord.  
**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.  
**Children:** Why do we give thanks at this table?  
**People:** We give thanks for God's creation,  
 for making us in God's image.  
 We give thanks because God never gave up on us,  
 even though we were not faithful to God.  
 We give thanks because when it was time,  
 God sent the only Son, Jesus, to show God's love for us.  
**Children:** How do we praise God for all this?  
**Leader:** With all the faithful of every time and place,  
 this song is sung to God's glory:



**Children:** What do we remember at this table?  
**People:** We remember God's Son, Jesus:  
 He healed the sick and restored sight to the blind;  
 He welcomed strangers and ate with outcasts.  
 Dying on the cross, He saved us from our sins.  
 Risen from the dead, He gives us new life.  
**Children:** How are we able to remember?  
**People:** We are able to remember  
 because of the gift of the Holy Spirit,  
 God's first gift to those who believe,  
 who will complete God's work in the world.  
**Children:** Why do we eat bread at this table?  
**Leader:** On the night before He died,  
 Jesus took bread, blessed it, and gave it to his friends.  
 He told them to eat it and remember him.  
 And ministering in Jesus' name, we do likewise.  
**Children:** Why do we drink from the cup at this Table?  
**Leader:** After the meal, Jesus took the cup, and gave it to them  
 as the promise that our sins are forgiven.  
 And ministering in Jesus' name, we do likewise.

"Holy, Holy, Holy" Land of  
 Rest, Words and Music:  
 Richard T. Proulx ©1986, 2011  
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Children: But this is just everyday bread and grape juice.

Leader: Let us pray that the everyday bread and juice  
will become holy:  
Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and cup,  
that the bread we break and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

People: **Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
All glory and honor are Yours,  
Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

Leader: Since this meal brings us together with all Christians,  
let us pray for the needs of the world, the church,  
and all of God's children.

(The pastor offers prayers asking God to help all those in need.)

Leader: Now, together let us pray the family prayer that Jesus taught us.

All: **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.**

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*The elements will be served together in the pews; beginning with bread,  
followed by the cup. Please partake as you receive. As you pass the bread say,  
"The bread of heaven, broken for you." The response is "Thanks be to God."  
As you pass the cup say, "The cup of salvation, poured out for you." The  
response is, "Amen." ALL the bread is gluten-free.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

†HYMN 432 "How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord"

Hymntune: REPTON

†BENEDICTION

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE "Tuba Tune" C.S. Lang

Andrew Herbruck, Director of Music Ministries, is playing the service.

Our liturgist this morning is Will Dinkeloo. Will is enjoying a busy senior year playing bass in the orchestra, swimming, and tending goal for water polo. He loves his time with Hadley and the AAIM guys on Sunday mornings. He's a newly committed Wolverine!

The flowers today are given by Sally Zimmerman in loving memory of her grandparents, Jacob and Eva Henninger Eberts, and Wilmer and Meta Gerber Zimmerman.

Visitors, thank you for joining us today; please use this QR code to register your attendance:



Welcome in Christ's name to First Presbyterian Church! You are welcome here just as you are at whatever place in your spiritual journey that you find yourself. If you have any questions about who we are, what we believe, or what we do, please ask one of our elders or pastors. They will be pleased to visit with you. Please know that you are invited to join us for coffee and goodies following the service in Calvin Hall.

# Here in This Place

## Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



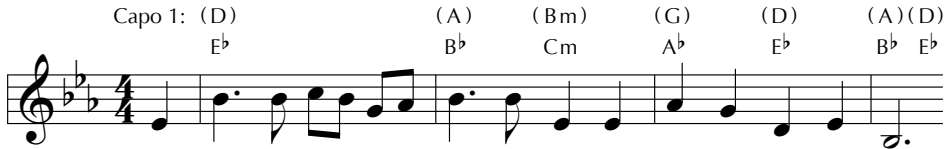
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



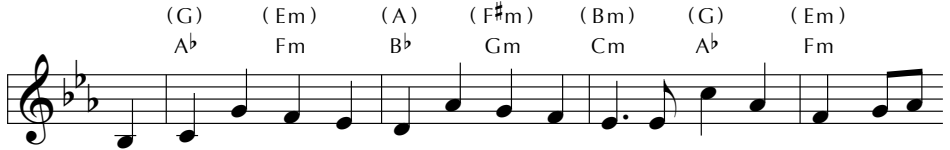
we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

## How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord 432



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call  
 2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be - came in hin - dranc - es more sure:  
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re -  
 if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -  
 whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your  
 in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to



stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.  
 wind its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.  
 name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.  
 you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored, done.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This reflection on Christian vocation was written to provide a new text for a pre-existing tune, and the poet has crafted his words so well that the two parts mesh smoothly. The tune is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.