

Everybody's Church

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

Sunday, March 3, 2024, 8:30am, 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Erickson

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!**

†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**.

†HYMN 401

"Here in This Place"

Hymntune: GATHER US IN

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

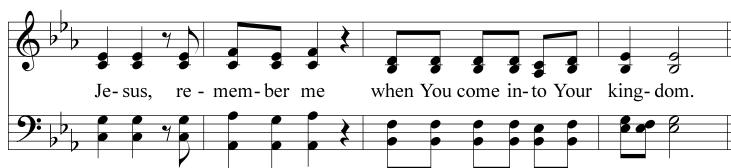
God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. **We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. 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

†OUR RESPONSE "Jesus, Remember Me" (sung twice)



We are an intentionally inclusive congregation and value the richness of worshiping with all God's people. There are times in the sanctuary when shouts or other loud noises may occur. We accept these without judgment, unless they are signs of distress in need of attention.

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days. Ever-present God, minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 19

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND TESTAMENT READING

John 2:13-22

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: **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*

MEDITATION

“I Won’t Let Go”

Miller

Chancel Choir Ensemble

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

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.

Leader: Why do we give thanks and praise before this Table?

People: We give thanks for God’s work of creation, liberation, and salvation.

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!

Leader: ... who forever sing to the glory of Your name..

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, - ho -
san - na in the high - est.

“Holy, Holy” Land of Rest,
Words and Music: Richard
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A prayer of thanksgiving for the ministry of Jesus, offered by the pastor.

Leader: Why do we eat bread at this Table?

People: On the night before He died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks He broke it, gave it to His disciples, and said, “Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Leader: Why do we drink from the cup at this Table?

People: The same night Jesus took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Leader: What do we remember at this Table?

People: We remember God’s gracious love for us, Christ’s death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit’s tender care for us.

Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

A prayer calling on the Holy Spirit, followed by prayers of thanksgiving, intercession, and supplication.

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

All persons are invited to come forward and partake first of the bread, and then the cup in order to be strengthened by Christ's presence and power in the sacrament. All the communion wafers are gluten-free.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

†HYMN 839 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

†BENEDICTION

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

The liturgist this morning is Linda Erickson. Linda has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 1979. She is currently serving on Session with the Worship and Music Ministry. She also enjoys singing with the Chancel Choir.

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 sign the Fellowship Pad or use this QR code to register your attendance:



Many Ways to Give at FPC

To contribute online visit the giving tab (using the QR code) or go to www.everybodyschurch.org.



Text "GIVE" to



248-600-4919

Hymntune: ASSURANCE

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.