

# Everybody's Church

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

Sunday, March 17, 2024, 8:30am, Fifth 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

Deb Evans

One: Almighty God, our redeemer, your steadfast love helps us to be messengers of forgiveness and hope.

Many: **Almighty God, our sustainer, by your Holy Spirit empower us to be your witnesses and proclaim the good news of your love.**

One: Help us to hear your voice and follow your holy way.

All: **Let us worship God!**

## †HYMN 729

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

†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: I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

## 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)

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn "Jesus, Remember Me". The first staff is in treble clef and the second is in bass clef. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics "Je-sus re-mem-ber me when You come in-to Your king-dom." written below the notes. The second staff is identical to the first.

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 51

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

### SECOND TESTAMENT READING

John 12:20-33

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON

“Worthwhile”

Rev. Lou Nyiri

*“Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.” – Psalm 51:11*

### MEDITATION

“Perfect Praise”

Butler

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 520 of the Old Testament in your Pew Bible.

Please follow along with the reading on page 106 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.

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 421      "Have Mercy, God, upon my Life"  
Sung to Hymntune: ST. ANNE

## †BENEDICTION

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

The liturgist this morning is Deb Evans. Deb joined First Presbyterian in 2023. She is a librarian for Oakland County government and enjoys reading history and biographies in her spare time.

The family of John Perryman is celebrating his birthday today with the beautiful flowers in the chancel.

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](http://www.everybodyschurch.org).



Text "GIVE" to



248-600-4919

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.