

February 25, 2024  
First Presbyterian Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Power* McChesney  
Fun Program Ringers

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

\*Call to Worship Elder Cathy Chapman  
Let us not be ashamed of our Savior. Let us sing and praise our God out loud.  
**In the midst of the crowd, we will praise you. In our community, we will bear witness to our faith.**  
Let us set our minds on divine things.  
Let us take up our cross and follow Christ.

\*Hymn 65 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)  
When we cry to God in prayer and confession, God hears. Let us approach God's throne of grace with confidence and faith.

Prayer of Confession  
**Savior God, the public spectacle of the cross calls us to account. We hesitate and hedge when opportunities arise to speak of you. We are shy in faith and not bold to proclaim. Your story saves, yet we keep it to ourselves. Forgive our reticence of faith. Forgive the ways we fail to serve as public witnesses. Help us be your candlelight, held high to set the world aglow. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon  
God does not forsake us. Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love. Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

\*Holy Interruption *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

\*Gloria Patri  
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

Children's Message

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Reading Mark 8:31-38  
This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

Message "I Don't Mind" Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith)  
**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. 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.**

\*Hymn *The Fruit of the Vine* Children's Choir Patterson  
The children invite the congregation to sing the refrain on the last verse when the children raise their hands.

The Fruit of the Vine

Final Refrain

Christ is the vine and we are the branch-es; through him  
we can do an - y - thing. Christ is the strength, the source\_  
and the bless - ing; when we serve him we be -  
hold the fruit of the vine.

Announcements

Pastoral Prayers and Lord's Prayer  
**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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem *Indescribable* Children's Choir Tomlin

\*Doxology Hymn *All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night* TALLIS' CANON  
**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.**

Prayer of Dedication  
**Almighty God, we thank you for the covenant you established with Abraham and Sarah, which you have opened to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives, that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love and a testament to your enduring promise. In Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

We Go Out to Serve

\*Hymn 792 *There is a Balm in Gilead* BALM IN GILEAD

\*Benediction

\*Postlude *Postlude* Hesse

Please wait until the end of the benediction response by the choir before exiting.

\*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Penny Angle and her family upon the death of her mother, Sandra Vause Coker.

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today by Kristen Miller and family in memory of Bob and Murphy Bennett.

**The Church This Week (2/25/2024)**

Today	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Youth
Mon.	10:00 a.m.	Lenten Study
Tues.	6:00 p.m.	Women’s Community Bible Study
Wed.	9:00 a.m.	Women’s Community Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

**Prayer List as of February 25, 2024**

Gerry & Bobby Rogers  
 Ina Coggeshall  
 Gray & Bea Sloop  
 Bennie and Benny Lou Moore  
 Beth O’Neal  
 Bobbie Jones  
 Keller Smith  
 Dr. Sue Arledge and her husband, Bob  
 Shenell Malloy (Susan & Bill’s daughter-in-law)  
 Edward Tinsley  
 Kathie Cook  
 Penny Angle

**Lenten Book Study: *The Cost of Discipleship***

Hey Everybody! I am pleased to announce that we started a new class on Mondays at 10 AM as a lenten study! This class meets in the parlor and will run for the five weeks of Lent, exploring the book *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We will explore challenging topics and ask questions about ourselves, our faith, and how we feel about our connection to God. You can register for the class by notifying Pastor Max ([maxwell@cherawfpc.org](mailto:maxwell@cherawfpc.org)) or signing up on the bulletin board near the front office. This study is an excellent opportunity for fellowship, reflection, and learning alongside other community members. We look forward to seeing you there!

Listed below are links to sign up to volunteer in the nursery, put flowers in the church, and monitor students at Pathfinders. Please prayerfully consider these opportunities. If you are interested, please just click on the proper link. If you need help in signing up, please contact Cathy Chapman.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545AF22AB9-nursery#/>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545AF22AB9-flowers1#/>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545AF22AB9-45315196-pathfinders#/>

The First Presbyterian Church has four scholarships available for young people:

The **William Manning Malloy Memorial Scholarship** is available to the most qualified high school senior living within a five mile radius of Cheraw; The **Edwin Malloy Memorial Scholarship** is available to anyone seeking higher education opportunities living within a five mile radius of Cheraw; The **D. W. Moore, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund** is available to students seeking a degree in the field of music; The **McArn Scholarship Fund** is also available. The deadline for returning scholarship applications is March 1, 2024. **Please make sure your letter of Reference is placed in a sealed envelope and attached to your application.**

**Confirmation Class 2024:**

All parents of 7th, 8th, and above, if you have a child and are interested in them attending Confirmation Class, then Pastor Max is getting ready to kick it off! The class will meet weekly for six weeks on Sundays at 5 PM before Youth, beginning on March 17th, 2024. There will be only one Sunday that we will not meet, which will be Easter on March 31st, 2024. Confirmation Sunday will be the same as Youth Sunday, May 5th, 2024. If you are interested in your child attending this class, please contact Pastor Max ([maxwell@cherawfpc.org](mailto:maxwell@cherawfpc.org)) so he can get everything set up!

The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

**Session of First Presbyterian Church**

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Marietta Melton Burch	Kelli Beck	Mary Anderson
Cathy Chapman	Avery Dickson	Andrew McLeod
Dan Tillman, III	Mary Jane Evans	Kristen Miller
Charlene Tillman	Jean Page Watson	Richard Pierce

**The Church Staff**

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor	Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE
Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary	
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton	Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO
Mrs. Arneha Kendall, Housekeeper	Mrs. Paige Coates, MMO
Mrs. Mary Gulledege, Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery	Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO

**Mission Partners**

Mr. Mark Hare/ Mrs. Jenny Bent, Costa Rica  
 Mrs. Ellen Smith, (mission co-worker) Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland

[www.cherawfpc.org](http://www.cherawfpc.org)



***Our Vision***

*Rooted by God’s Grace,  
 Growing in the Spirit,  
 Reaching Out with Christ’s Love*

**Sunday, February 25, 2024**

First Presbyterian Church  
 300 Market Street  
 PO Box 552  
 Cheraw, SC 29520  
 (843) 537-7474  
 Email:info@firstprescheraw.org