

March 9, 2025  
First Presbyterian Church  
*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent*

*We Gather in God's Name*

Chiming of the Trinity

**Prelude** Sinfonia, from *Wir Danken Dir Gott* J.S. Bach

**Welcome** Rev. Maxwell Michaels

*We Worship Together*

**\*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 91)**

Where is our home?

**Our home is in the shelter and shadow of God.**

How can this be our refuge?

**Because God's angels will guard your house and those in it from evil and threat.**

How can we flourish?

**Staying close to God's ways will bring our lives to abundance.**

Let us worship God.

**\*Hymn** 166 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* ST. FLAVIAN

**Invitation to Confession** (the congregation is seated)

Scripture says, "No one who believes in Christ will be put to shame."

Therefore, we do not approach God with shame but with life-giving expectations grounded in our trust of God. For when we confess with our mouth and trust in our heart, we will find healing for ourselves and for the world.

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of wide circles, we too often revert to our fear-filled instinct to cut off those unfamiliar and distant. May we evaluate others based on your heart. In Romans, you remind us when we lean into your kin-dom agenda, our worldview is expanded to focus on our common humanity. May we embrace your created diversity and include all in our cherished life's work.**

**Assurance of Pardon (based on Romans 10)**

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Having called upon the wide arms of our gracious God, know that you are forgiven. With joy, may we amplify God's grace into the whole world. 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.**

**Choral Anthem** *By Our Love* Nockels

**Children's Message**

*We Receive God's Word*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Reading** Deuteronomy 26:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Reading** Luke 4:1-13

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

**Message** "Say It Ain't So" Rev. Maxwell Michaels

**Affirmation of Faith** *(from the Theological Declaration of Barmen, 1934)*

"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body [is] joined and knit together" (Ephesians 4:15-16).

**The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely His property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from His comfort and from His direction in the expectation of His appearance. We reject the false doctrine, as though the church were permitted to abandon the form of its message and order to its own pleasure or to changes in prevailing ideological and political convictions.**

**\*Hymn** 625 *How Great Thou Art*

HOW GREAT THOU ART

**Announcements**

**Pastoral Prayers & 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** *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* Whitworth

**\*Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Prayer of Dedication (based on Deuteronomy 26:10-11)**

**Now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me. I bow before you and shall celebrate with immigrants and strangers in our community the bounty of all you have given to me and my household.**

*We Go Out to Serve*

**\*Hymn** 216 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* ST. CHRISTOPHER

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response** 738 *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*  
(last verse) MARYTON

**\*Postlude** *Come Christians, Join to Sing* Phillips

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

Acolytes for today: Campbell Harris and Madlyn Tinsley

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the Glory of God by John and Tammy Joyce.

**The Church This Week (3/9/2025)**

Today	10:00 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Mon.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
Tues.	6:00 p.m.	CBS
Wed.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
	9:00 a.m.	CBS
	3:15 p.m.	Fun Program
	5:30 p.m.	Prayer Meeting
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

**Prayer List as of March 9, 2025**

Gerry Rogers  
 Ina Coggeshall  
 Gray & Bea Sloop  
 Benny Moore  
 Bobbie Jones  
 For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses  
 Ruth Jackson  
 B.J. Moore  
 Edward Tinsley  
 Louise Carpenter  
 Friends and families affected by Hurricane Helene

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.

If you would like to place flowers or a plant in the sanctuary for worship service, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. You can also call or email Cathy Chapman and she can sign you up for a date.

We are excited to announce this year's Vacation Bible School, "True North," June 17-19, 5-8 p.m. Mark your calendars and learn more about trusting Jesus in a wild world!

**Nursery Schedule for March**

March 9	Charlene Tillman	Marietta Melton Burch
March 16	Maggie Lloyd	Michael Chapman
March 23	Brittany Tillman	Heather Tucker
March 30	Edward Tinsley	Jean Page Watson

The Chili Cook Off is Back! Mark your calendars for March 19<sup>th</sup> -- to raise money for the Mission Trip to Massanetta.



*Our Vision*

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

**Session of First Presbyterian Church**

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Kelli Beck	Mary Anderson	Mike Chapman
Avery Dickson	Andrew McLeod	Christie McLeod
Mary Jane Evans	Kristen Miller	Tracie Phillips
Jean Page Watson	Richard Pierce	Harold Watson

**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. Armetha Kendall, Housekeeper	Mrs. Gini Eddins, MMO
Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery	

Mission Partners  
 Mr. Mark Hare/ Mrs. Jenny Bent, Costa Rica

**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

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