

**March 16, 2025**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent*

**We Gather in God's Name**

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**Prelude** *Jacob's Ladder* Traditional arr. Thompson  
Fun Program Chimes & Bells

**Welcome** Rev. Maxwell Michaels

**We Worship Together**

**\*Call to Worship (Psalm 27:1)**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;

**Whom shall I fear?**

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

**Of whom shall I be afraid?**

Come, seek God in this time of worship.

**\*Hymn** 269 *Lead On O King Eternal* LANCASHIRE  
Terri Hurley, trumpet

**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**

**Eternal God, as enemies circle and fear grows large, the distance between us feels like absence and we come to believe you are hidden and concealed. Forgive our doubt. Forgive our lack of spiritual seeking. Forgive us when we make our faith all about what you might do for us rather than how we might serve you and work at right relationship with you. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

God does not forsake us in times of trial. 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.**

**Choral Anthem** *Draw Me Close* Smith  
Campbell Harris & Ella Morgan, soloists; Brycen Byrd, wind chimes

**Children's Message**

**We Receive God's Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Reading** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Reading** Luke 13:31-35

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

**Message** "Ramblin' Man" Rev. Maxwell Michaels

**Affirmation of Faith** *(from a Brief Statement of Faith)*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

**\*Hymn** 26 *Earth and All Stars* EARTH AND ALL STARS  
(Fun Program Choir, Youth Bells, Terri Hurley, trumpet)  
Fun Program Choir vs. 1; congregation vs. 2-4)

**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** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Traditional American  
arr. by Harris  
(Terri Hurley, trumpet; Youth Bells)

**\*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**

**God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. May our offerings provide for others and be used to further Christ's ministry and mission. Amen.**

**We Go Out to Serve**

**\*Hymn** 465 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* CONVERSE  
Terri Hurley, trumpet

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response** *Go Now in Peace* Sleeth  
(Fun Program Choir; Campbell Harris & Ella Morgan, duet; Mari Burch, Lydia Fenters, Sara Gavin, & Madelyn Tinsley, percussion)

**\*Postlude** *Toccata in E Minor* Pachelbel  
(Jackson Alexander, organ)

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

Today we thank Mrs. Lindsay, Fun Program, Youth Bells, & Terri Hurley, guest trumpeter, for leading us in worship with such glorious music.

Acolytes for today: Laine Baker and Sam Phillips

**The Church This Week (3/16/2025)**

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
	5:00 p.m.	Chili Cookoff
Thurs.	6:00 p.m.	Session
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

**Nursery Schedule for March**

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! This Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> -- to raise money for the Mission Trip to Massanetta.



**Prayer List as of March 16, 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!

**Session of First Presbyterian Church**

Class of 2025

Kelli Beck  
 Avery Dickson  
 Mary Jane Evans  
 Jean Page Watson

Class of 2026

Mary Anderson  
 Andrew McLeod  
 Kristen Miller  
 Richard Pierce

Class of 2027

Mike Chapman  
 Christie McLeod  
 Tracie Phillips  
 Harold Watson

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor  
 Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary  
 Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton  
 Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper  
 Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery

Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE

Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO  
 Mrs. Gini Eddins, MMO

Mission Partners

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

*Our Vision*

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

**Sunday, March 16, 2025**

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