

March 23, 2025
First Presbyterian Church
3rd Sunday in Lent

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Trumpet Tune* Faber
(Cloie Tillman, organ)

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship (Psalm 63)** Christie McLeod

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

***Hymn** 436 *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us*
O QUANTA QUALIA

Invitation to Confession

The scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways and return to God, who offers mercy and pardon. Trusting in that mercy, let us call upon God who is near.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have been quick to judge others and slow to make changes in our own lives. We confess that we have focused on others' shortcomings instead reforming our own. Turn us, O Lord, from these ways that lead to perishing. Lead us, O Lord, in your ways that lead to abundant life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God speaks through the prophet Isaiah: my thoughts are not your thoughts nor are your ways my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways. Let us find peace in God's ways of mercy and grace knowing that we are forgiven. 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 *I Follow the Thing that Good is* Beebe

Children's Message

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 55:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading Luke 13:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Message "Change of Heart" Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith *(from the Confession of 1967)*

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love. God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, magnificence and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

***Hymn** *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (insert)

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 "Raindrops"

Galloway

Chelsi Frazer, pianist

***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

Gracious God, you give to us out of your abundance. For the material gifts and the spiritual gifts you give us, we thank you. We dedicate these gifts to you and ask that you continue to lead us as we use these gifts to join your work in this community

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn** *Nearer My God to Thee* (insert)

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** *Let the Peace of Christ Rule in Your Heart* Cagle
(CH #231; use Exaltation Book)

***Postlude** *Dance* Faber

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 Chelsi Frazer, student of Weiz Baker, and Cloie Tillman for their musical offerings this morning.

Acolytes for today: Ella Morgan and Mari Burch

The Church This Week (3/23/2025)

Today	10:00 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
		Membership Team (Lib)
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

Nursery Schedule for March

March 23	Brittany Tillman	Heather Tucker
March 30	Edward Tinsley	Jean Page Watson



Prayer List as of March 23, 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

<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. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper	Mrs. Gini Eddins, MMO
Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery	

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 23, 2025

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