

April 6, 2025
First Presbyterian Church
5th Sunday in Lent

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Fugue in G Minor*, BWV 578

J.S. Bach

Welcome

Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.

Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.

It was said among the nations,
The Lord has done great things for them.

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

***Hymn 228** *Were You There?* (vs. 1-3)

WERE YOU THERE

Invitation to Confession

If we ask God to restore us to the way we have been, then we have not asked for as much as God intends to give. God is not content simply to return or restore us to former things. Instead, God seeks to give the gift of resurrection - a new and abundant life. With confidence in God's generosity, we confess our sins and seek the new life offered in Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Confession

Ever-Present God, you offer us restoration and wholeness, yet we resist you. We reduce the purpose of this life to the amount of stuff we can retain, and we disregard the damage done to our planet, our neighbors, and to ourselves in the process. We confess that we would rather remain as we are than risk the change that results from your presence in our lives. In this season of Lent, help us to realize just how much we depend on one another. Guide us to reorient our lives towards your goodness and your joy. And as you do, we ask that you renew us, restore us, and remain with us, as you always have.

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord has done great things for us. Through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, we are renewed, and we are made whole. Beloved children of God, know that 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 *Trust in God*

Elevation Worship

(Cloie Tillman, soloist; Lainey Baker & Dan Tillman, guitar;
Jessie Baker, percussion; Jackson Tucker & Sam Phillips, drums)

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 43:16-21

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading John 12:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Message "What You Know"

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 172** *Blest Are They*

BLEST ARE THEY

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Adagio*

Vivaldi

***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.

Sacrament of Communion
Communion

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Music *I Still Believe*

(Weiz Baker, soloist)

Camp

Scattered words and empty thoughts

Seem to pour from my heart

I've never felt so torn before

Seems I don't know where to start

But it's now that I feel Your grace falls like rain

From every fingertip, washing away my pain

Refrain:

I still believe in Your faithfulness

I still believe in Your truth

I still believe in Your holy word

Even when I don't see, I still believe

Though the questions still fog up my mind

With promises I still seem to bear

Even when answers slowly unwind

It's my heart I see You prepare

But it's now that I feel Your grace fall like rain

From every fingertip, washing away my pain (Refrain)

The only place I can go is into your arms

Where I throw to you my feeble prayers

In brokenness I can see that this was your will for me

Help me to know Your near (Refrain)

Prayer After Communion

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn 462 *I Love To Tell the Story*

HANKEY

*Benediction

*Benediction Response *Let the Peace of Christ Rule in Your Heart* Cagle

*Postlude *All Glory be to God on High*

Walther

Please wait until the end of the postlude before exiting.

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

The Church This Week (4/6/2025)

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 April 6, 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.

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for April - June

April 6	Alison Chapman	Heather Tucker
April 13	Kelli Beck	Maggie Barton
April 20	Maggie Barton	Brittany Tillman
April 27	Jean Page Watson	Mary Jane Evans
May 4	Laura Folger	Cathy Chapman
May 11	Alison Chapman	Jesse/Lainey
May 18	Laura Folger	Cathy Chapman
May 25	Charlene Tillman	
June 1		Steve Cook
June 8	Mary Jane Evans	Marietta Melton Burch
June 15	Maggie Lloyd	Michael Chapman
June 22	Brittany Tillman	Heather Tucker
June 29	Beth Witherspoon	Jean Page Watson



Our Vision

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

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

Sunday, April 6, 2025

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