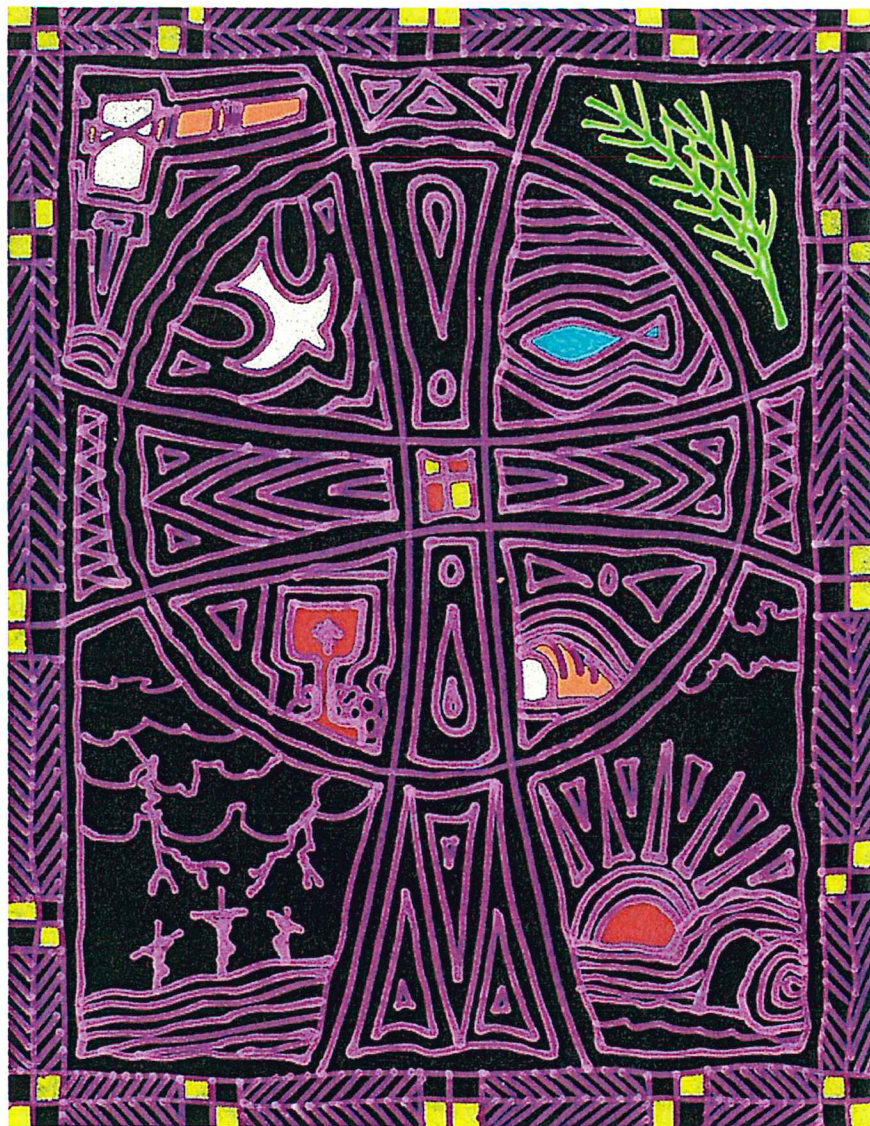


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Third Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Where're You Walk

G. F. Handel

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

Caron DuRant

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Only the hungry search for bread. Only the thirsty look for water.

People: **We gather in this sanctuary and in our homes as those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.**

Leader: Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.
Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

People: **We have tried many things to find our own meaning in life.
Yet we ache for something more.**

Leader: We gather with our unsatisfied longings and our heart-felt yearnings, and we turn to our God in Jesus Christ to satisfy our souls and to give us direction for our journey.

People: **O give thanks to the Lord and sing praises for God's steadfast love!**

*** HYMN OF PRAISE 435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We continue to be tempted, faithful God. We are blessed with gifts to use for others, but we want to keep them for ourselves. We easily notice the mistakes of those around us, but we are not eager to look in a mirror at our own lives. Help us to be honest with ourselves and less critical of others. Forgive us, God. Fill the poverty of our spirits with the richness of your grace. We stand in need of your cleansing mercy. Grant us your Holy Spirit as we bring our burdens to you in prayer.

(Silence for Personal Confession)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In a world that offers so many lies and false stories, the truth of the Good News is this:
We are held by a love that we have done nothing to earn, a love that will not let us go.
Friends, in Jesus Christ we have forgiveness and new life.

People: **Thanks be to God! May we live into the truth of God's grace. Amen.**

*** GLORIA PATRI**

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Bob Brearley

Following the Children's Moment, children preschool through 2nd grade are invited to Children in Worship. Parents can pick up their children from the third floor after worship.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Burke Tecklenburg McElveen
Son of Bronwyn and Thomas McElveen

Presentation

Questions to the Parents

Questions to the Children of the Church

Question to the Congregation

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Buck by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of this church?

We do.

Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day, He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Baptism

Congregational Response *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

KINGDOM

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

*Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to listen for God's call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; trust and love God more than all.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

Sumter Cooper

(Pew Bible, pg. 685, Old Testament)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 13:1-9

Rev. Bob Brearley

(Pew Bible, pg. 76, New Testament)

SERMON

"The Riddle of Suffering"

Rev. Bob Brearley

INVITATION TO PRAYER (Remain seated) (Sing twice)

SHEPHERD ME

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears, from death into life.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Call to Giving

Offertory Anthem

A Lenten Meditation

Douglas E. Wagner

* Doxology

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

* Offertory Prayer

* **HYMN** 792

There Is a Balm in Gilead

BALM IN GILEAD

BENEDICTION

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

ST. FLAVIAN

*Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Bourrée

Leopold Mozart

* Please stand as you are able

All music is used with permission: OneLicense.net#A-711301.

W E L C O M E !

We especially welcome those of you who are guests today. We invite you to fill out a Welcome card found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate as it is passed. We look forward to meeting you. If you have particular questions, please speak to Rev. Brearley.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Elders: Caron DuRant, Ann Geddings
Assisting in Worship: Caron DuRant
Deacons: Chris Somheil, Macaulay Smith
Youth Liturgist: Sumter Cooper
Junior Usher: Connor Thames

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Linda Hogon, John Moorman
Assisting in Worship: Linda Hogon
Deacons: John Michael Osteen, Lark Haynie
Youth Liturgist: Edmunds DuBose
Junior Usher: Lucas DuBose

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of the baptism of Burke "Buck" Tecklenburg McElveen and in loving memory of his great grandfathers for whom he is named, William Burke Watson and Albert Tecklenburg Wilson.

ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

Preschool and Elementary Ministry

Children, 3K – 5th grade, are encouraged to join Ms. Ashley, Ms. Jessica, and friends from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. to learn more about the Bible, learn memory verses and sing in the Children's Choir. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. This ministry will meet February 13 through March 20. On Sunday, March 27, the children will sing during worship. Contact Ashley Blum with any questions.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Youth Sunday school for middle and high school students meets today from 4:30-5:00 p.m. in the West Building. Missy Coulter and friends will be leading. Youth group will begin at 5:00 p.m. with dinner and end at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Liza Cooper with questions.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class will meet this Sunday, February 20, through Sunday, April 24 on the third floor of the Educational Building from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Sunday will be May 1 during the 10:30 worship service. Please call Caron DuRant (803-491-8552) if you have any questions.

TIME TO ORDER EASTER LILIES

We will once again place Easter lilies on Easter Sunday, April 17. Order forms were included in this week's Focus and are also available from the table outside the church office. Orders must be received in the office no later than Friday, March 25.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Palm Sunday, April 10

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

As we start preparing for this fun event, we need your help with Easter eggs. We need plastic eggs filled with individually wrapped candy or stickers. Please no chocolate (it melts), or peanuts (due to peanut allergies). All donations are needed in the church office by Sunday, April 3. Any questions, please contact Ashley Blum.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: Nancy Smith, Harold Gadson, Caroline Sigmon, Bill Scobee,
Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICERS

Recommendations for the office of Elder and Deacon are now being received from the congregation by the Officer Nominating Committee.

The Book of Order, Presbyterian Church, USA, sets down the following qualifications for officers:

➤ **ELDERS** – Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world. Elders should have already proven themselves to be committed and dedicated to the life, ministry, and mission of the church. (Book of Order G-2.0301)

➤ **DEACONS** – The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, warm sympathies, and sound judgment should be chosen for this office. (Book of Order G-2.0201)

There are two ways to submit your recommendations to the Church Office. The deadline to receive recommendations is Tuesday, March 29.

1. Return the below form to the church office.
2. Contact Missy Coulter (coultervm@aol.com) or Liza Cooper (tblandcooper@aol.com) with your recommendations.

Name(s) you wish to be considered for nomination as Elder.

Name(s) you wish to be considered for nomination as Deacon.

Comments on the above.

Signature

THOUGHTS ON SERVICE

- 1) This process is not a popularity or status vote.
- 2) We have reorganized our ministry areas in a way that does not require Elders or Deacons to be committee chairs.
- 3) We ask all church family members to serve, and we strive to match all members' talents and interests to our congregation's ministry goals.
- 4) We ask everyone to be prayerful as they consider service to our church and its members.
- 5) We are seeking members who are called to servant leadership in First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA).