

First Presbyterian Church March 21, 2021
Sunday Service

We Gather in God's Name

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME & PRAYER CONCERNS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

...May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

And also with you.

INTROIT

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" st. 1

No. 187

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

CALL TO WORSHIP

PASTOR: This is the fifth step on our Lenten journey!

PEOPLE: **This is the step of sacrifice.**

PASTOR: This requires the willingness to give all of your life to God.

PEOPLE: **Be with us, God, as we take this step.**

PASTOR: We are called upon to give our lives to God.

PEOPLE: **Be with us, God, as we commit our lives to you.**

PASTOR: Let us open our hearts and spirits to God this day!

PEOPLE: **Come, let us worship and offer our voices of praise to God!**

HYMN

"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

No. 69

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

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I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)

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CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Compassionate God, forgive us when we falter; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. We hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, God. Give us courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us, through Jesus Christ, may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

... In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

GLORIA **"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"** **No. 582**

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION "O Jesus, I Have Promised" st. 1,3 **No. 725**

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
be now and always near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

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O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, true guardian of my soul.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING: *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"The Old Rugged Cross"

Billy Farmer

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING: *John 12:20-33*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *Give Up Your Lives*

HYMN

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

No. 833

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

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OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

No. 606

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 THANKSGIVING, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” st. 3

No. 187

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

Welcome to Sunday morning worship! We are delighted you have chosen to worship with us at First Presbyterian London. This is a place of love and hope and safety and forgiveness. We will be food for the hungry, living water for the thirsty. We will comfort the bereaved and come together as a family of faith that bridges the chasms of loneliness and despair. We are open and inclusive, welcoming everyone who seeks to be a follower of Jesus Christ. As Christ drew no distinctions on the cross so we draw none here as his church. You are loved. Come on in – we’ve been waiting for you. Welcome, we are the church.

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Prayer Requests

We have several members and friends that are in need of our thoughts and our prayers. Please add them, or keep them on, your prayer list. Hold them in your heart and pray for God's healing power and comfort in the days ahead. Pray with thanks for those who are healing!

Brandon Wagers— Beverly Grigsby's grandson's stepdad, a young firefighter in London, was suffering from pneumonia that resulted from Covid. Brandon is now home and doing much better. Keep him and the family in your prayers.

Swinney Family— Little Oaklee is doing much better and has been off of the cpap machine since Tuesday! She has now reached 4lbs and 2oz. Just pray for energy and growth and peace for everyone involved! The entire family says, "Thank you for the continued prayers!"

Jim & Betty Collins & Family— Continue to pray for Betty's continued healing after her successful pacemaker battery replacement.

Randy Schott family: Randy (dear friend of Wynona) passed away from Covid and prayer for the safety and comfort of his wife.

Brenda Hail & Bowman Hail— Keep Brenda and the family—her children & grandchildren—in your prayers as medical issues are being handled, and as progress is being made.

Susan Hampton (close friend of Brenda Hail)— Please pray for Susan, as she was diagnosed with breast cancer and will be pursuing treatment. Also pray for her close friends and family.

Caroline Robinson— Caroline's health is continuing to heal and she thanks her church for the prayers that have helped her. Continue to pray for her.

Lea Green and Family— Pray for Lea's continued healing and pray for her family and life partner, Karl.

Beth Meredith— Pray for Beth's continued recovery from surgery.

The Burns Family— Please pray for Bob Burns and family. Lil Burns passed away recently. They will need our thoughts and prayers in the coming days and weeks as they deal with the loss of wife, mother, and grandmother.

The Putman Family— Please pray for Bill Putman and family. Lynn Putman passed away last week. They will need our thoughts and prayers in the coming days and weeks as they deal with the loss of wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

The First Presbyterian Church of London: Please keep the church staff, volunteers, and the whole church family in your prayers during this time. Times are challenging in regard to the virus, and we want just to think and pray about every member of our First Presbyterian family. Everyone needs a prayer, even if they don't know it!

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Whoever serves me must follow me;
and where I am, my servant also will be.
My Father will honor the one who serves me.

John 12:26



March Birthdays

2nd Theresa Kibby

4th Debbie

Crawford

16th Noah Collins

17th Sally Jackson

20th Jack Phelps

22nd Marian

Davis

24th Wynonna

Brown

25th Mackey Williams

Benjamin Weston

27th Shirley Trosper

Anniversaries

6th Jacque & Vickie

Phelps

THANK YOU TO ALL THE WERE ABLE TO HELP WITH OUR CLEAN UP DAY SATURDAY. IT LOOKS REALL GREAT!!

Don't forget the Lenten challenge! We are calling it a **\$0.40 for 40 challenge**. We are asking that you take the change you have collected each day and place it in an envelope or small container and donate it to the **Mission Committee** to use for your food pantry. This will allow us to purchase meat and other staples. At the end of Lent, drop off your donation at the church, or bring it Sunday to our church service. We will use your donation to further our mission and the work of God. \$0.40 may not seem like much but if we get 50 members and friends to donate \$0.40 a day (\$16.00 total) that would amount to \$800.00 for your Mission Committee. A small sacrifice can make a big difference in the lives of those around us and will help us remember the sacrifice of Jesus. Thank you in advance!



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ANNOUNCEMENT

- Although we have now returned to in person worship, remember that we are returning to our **Covid safety plan**, which can be found on our FPC website. Social distancing and masks are required. The services will still be live on Facebook and our website, so if you do not yet feel safe to attend, you are still able to join us!
- Pastor Griffin started sharing a **daily devotional** with you on February 17th and it will last through April 3rd. It will focus on deepening our journeys through Lent. Griffin will be sharing some scripture to reflect upon, and a prayer, each day. She will also, each week, share a weeklong written devotional written by Presbyterian Minister, Roger Gench, who retired a little over a year ago after 17 years of ministry at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, and who now writes for the Presbyterian Outlook.
- Pastor Griffin and her husband, Rev. Sean, are currently sharing another joint class, or **conversation group**, on Wednesdays, during the Lent season! They are reflecting upon a book, *Seven Words*, by Susan Robb. In *Seven Words*, Susan Robb looks at the seven last words of Christ on the cross through a lens that finds life and hope in his final sayings, while exploring each from a biblical and historical perspective. The book brings a hopeful and contemplative take on the cross during the weeks of Lent. They will be joining together virtually at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings, and the class will conclude on March 31st.
- **Easter lilies** are available this year to honor or remember a loved one. If you would like to order an Easter lily, please complete the order envelope found on the small table in the narthex. Please enclose a check or cash for \$12.50 when you place your order. You may put your envelope in the morning offering or in the "Offerings" box in the narthex.

Easter week events

Maundy Thursday Service. We will be having a virtual Maundy Thursday service starting at 7:00PM. It will consist of a short message and song. Please join us on Facebook and fpclondon.org

Good Friday. We will be participating in a Transylvania Presbytery virtual Good Friday service starting at 7:00 PM. Each church will have an allotted time to fill as they. At the end Rev. Philip Lotspeich will close with a short message. The service will be on Zoom with more information to follow.

Sunrise Service. Easter will be here soon and to celebrate our Risen Lord and the stone that was rolled away, we will be having a sunrise service in our garden. It will begin at 7:00 AM. Following the morning worship service we will be having an **Easter Egg hunt** for the children. These will be dependent upon the weather and Covid. If you are able please plan to bring some **filled Easter Eggs** to the church by Good Friday April 2nd so they will be ready by Easter Morning. Thank you!