

First Presbyterian Church March 7, 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

"To God Be the Glory" (st. 1)

No. 634

To God be the glory; great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!

CALL TO WORSHIP

PASTOR: Our lives can so easily become corrupted by our own sin.

PEOPLE: **We stand together in the need of the presence of God.**

PASTOR: God has heard our cries and calls us forward on this journey.

PEOPLE: **God, guide our steps.**

PASTOR: Come, then, and let us move forward toward the cross.

PEOPLE: **Let us faithfully follow Jesus!**

HYMN:

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

No. 1

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

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Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Even with ten straightforward commandments, we manage to get it wrong. We misuse Your name on an almost daily basis, and dishonor our families, friends, and neighbors. We hunger for what others have. We do not find nearly enough time for You, our God. We think we are so wise, only to end up with the very sins that keep us from You. Forgive us, we pray. Even through old pain and wounds, may we embrace the new life that Christ can bring. 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.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING: *John 2:13-22*

...The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"* (st. 1,2) No. 494

Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,
thou fount of life, thou light of all,
from the best bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to heed thy call.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
thou savest those that on thee call;
to them that seek thee thou art good,
to them that find thee, all in all.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING: *Exodus 20:1-17*

...The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *"Give Up Your Sins"*

HYMN *"O Lord My God"* (st. 1,3,4) No. 625

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin: (refrain)

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" (refrain)

OFFERING

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DOXOLOGY

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.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People, Prayers of Thanksgiving & Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right to give our thanks and praise...

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

Communion of the People

Anthem

"Given For You"

Jerry Wright

This is my body, my body broken. Take and eat and remember.

Take and eat and remember.

I came to give that your might live. My life is given for you.

This is my blood. My blood was shed for you. Take the cup and remember.

Take the cup and remember.

I came to give that you might live. My life is given for You.

Take, eat, this is my body. Take, eat, this is my blood.

O come, come, come to the feast and remember.

My life is given for you.

This is my body. This is my blood. Remember me.

Prayer after Communion

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" st.3

No. 216

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

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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!

Lynne Putman— Lynne experienced congestive heart failure, but got to return home from the hospital on Friday and is doing and feeling much better. Keep her in your prayers.

Brandon Wagers— Beverly Grigsby's grandson's stepdad, a young firefighter in London, is suffering from pneumonia that resulted from Covid, and has been on a ventilator. Brandon is now showing signs of improvement! Keep him and the family in your prayers.

Swinney Family— Brittany and Jake are now staying at the Ronald McDonald House so that they can be with Oaklee as much as possible. Little Oaklee is doing and feeling very well and is growing. She hit the 3 pound mark on Thursday! She needs to be at least 4 pounds to come home. She still has a feeding tube but they are still working with her to use a pacifier to strengthen her mouth to be able to bottle feed. She's doing better and better each day. She still has extra air pressure in her nose to help her breath a bit so she can keep her oxygen level up without wearing herself out. She's having less and less episodes of holding her breath. Everyone, though, is doing much better. 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. She had a checkup with good results last week.

Brown Family— Jack Brown's last surviving brother, James Brown (Flemingsburg, Kentucky) passed away recently. James had contracted Covid but was experiencing other health issues, too. Prayers are requested for the Brown family.

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 for her family and life partner, Karl.

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

Joe & Alayne White— Pray for the family as Joe has tested positive for Covid and has other health concerns as well.

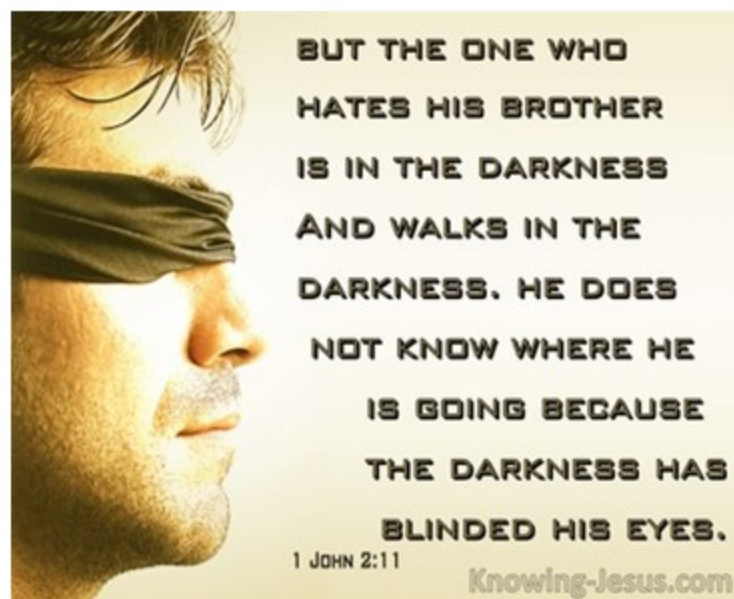
Mychal Dabney (lifelong friend of Pastor Griffin)- recovering after a car wreck last week.

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

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Prayer Requests

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!



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

Wednesday, **February 17th**, was the first day of Lent. In past years we have had a canned goods challenge and a clothing challenge. This year we have a different challenge for you! We are calling it a **\$0.40 for 40 challenge**. We know that at the end of the day most people have some change in their pocket or purse. Instead of dropping it into a large jar or giving it away, we are asking that you take that change and place it in an envelope or small container and then donate it to the Mission Committee to use for your food pantry. This will allow us to purchase meat and other staples that are not free. 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

- We are excited to share that the Transylvania Presbytery awarded First Presbyterian of London a **hunger grant** in the amount of \$1,000! Thanks to all involved!!
- Although we have today 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!
- We will hold a **Congregational Meeting** today, directly after worship. We have a new slate of elders that we will be electing. We have three members that will be coming onto the session: Zono Howard, Mike Pratt and Judy Sturgeon. We also have two that will be remaining as elders: John Cornelius and Mike Hardin.
- On March 20th, the church will hold its **Spring Cleanup** from 9 AM – 12 PM! Please join us to help take care of our church!
- 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! We 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. We will be joining together virtually at 7 on Wednesday evenings, and the class will conclude on March 31.
- We are currently working on updating the **church website** so that we may share worship, classes and groups, and our children's sermons on www.fpclondon.org. Many thanks to Marissa Jewell for her gifts and the effort she is putting into this!

Well, we have a new way of viewing the sermon each week! Cut and paste this link and you will be able to watch our virtual service!

www.FPCLondon.sermon.net

You can still find us on our Facebook page or on our website: fpclondon.org