

First Presbyterian Church February 28, 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

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" st.1

No. 216

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,

the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;

a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,

from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

CALL TO WORSHIP

PASTOR: We come to worship from different places and for different reasons.

PEOPLE: **O God, do not be far from us.**

PASTOR: We experience the Spirit in different ways.

PEOPLE: **O God, do not be far from us.**

PASTOR: We hear Jesus' words with different ears.

PEOPLE: **O God, do not be far from us.**

PASTOR: "Deny yourselves."

PEOPLE: **O God, do not be far from us.**

PASTOR: "Take up your cross."

PEOPLE: **O God, do not be far from us.**

PASTOR: "Follow me."

PEOPLE: **O God, we ourselves will come near.**

HYMN

"Go to Dark Gethsemene"

No. 220

Go to dark Gethsemene, all who feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall; view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

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Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete;
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay:
all is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that our sin turns us from you again and again. We have failed to serve you faithfully. We are a sinful generation longing for your mercy. We want not only to save our lives, but to gain the whole world as well. You invite us to see with a new vision, but we continue in our old ways. You call us to set aside our own desires so that we may embrace *your* desires, but we are stubborn and refuse to let go. God, rebuke our shameful ways. Guide us to find our place, directly behind Christ. Teach us to take up our crosses and follow wherever you lead. 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.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen.

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" st.2

No. 216

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Billy Farmer

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 8:31-38

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Give Up Your Selves

HYMN "Take My Life"

No. 697

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

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OFFERING

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.

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

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.

Sunday Service

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. 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.

Lil Burns— Please pray for Lil's continued healing. Last week, she had her last chemotherapy treatment!

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 pray for her family and life partner, Karl.

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Prayer Requests

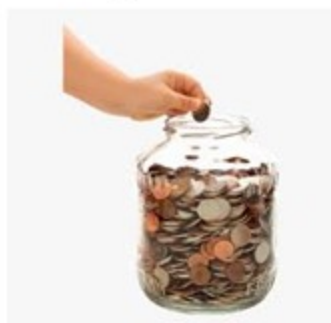
Nate and Erin Clouse (Family of friends of Cubby Ruby)— They recently welcomed a new baby. The birth was difficult but the baby is now home and doing well! Please keep them in your prayers.

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.

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!

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 last week awarded First Presbyterian a **hunger grant** in the amount of **\$1,000!** Thanks to all involved!!
- **Session voted to resume in person worship services on March 7.** As we did in the fall, we will be returning to our Covid safety plan, which can be found on our FPC website. Social distancing and masks will be 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** on **March 7**, 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 now writes for the Presbyterian Outlook.
- Pastor Griffin and her husband, Rev. Sean, are planning on doing another **joint class, or conversation group**, on Wednesdays, during the Lent season! We will be 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, beginning on February 24, the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday, and the class will conclude on March 31.
- The **FPC website is being updated** to ensure we are reaching those within our church family, as we aren't currently able to meet in person, and also allow visitors to learn more about who we are. We have added a few pages to our website in hopes of allowing everyone to view our weekly sermons, as well as our children's sermons. We have also been working on updating links on the website to make sure things are easier to find and more accessible. We hope this allows everyone to stay connected virtually, to be a welcoming presence for someone who might visit FPC, and to create an online presence. You can visit www.fpclondon.org to check out the latest version of our website and to keep up with any videos/sermons we post. Many thanks to Marissa Jewell for her gifts and the effort she is putting into this!

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February Birthdays


1st Valerie Thornbury
7th John Robert Hail
8th Carter Jackson
Bonnie Johnson
9th Emily Davis
10th Bowman Hail
12th Tom Weatherly
14th Ruth Ann Caldwell
Jackson Brown
16th Monica Gray
17th Erika Davis
20th Roman Robinson
Lindsey Murray
24th Joshua Phelps
25th Kaitlin Robinson
26th Susan House
27th Caroline Robinson
29th Mike Howard

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



Note to self...

I will rest in the Lord
and will wait patiently
for Him. I am not in
control, but I am loved
and held by The One
who is.

©Note to self: Daily Reminders For The Broken Hearted by Debbie Kay

Well, we have a new way of viewing the sermon each week! This should help with the sound issues as well as the video. Cut and past 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

Welcome to our special virtual Sunday morning service as we worship the living God while staying safe during this Covid 19 outbreak. 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. We've been waiting for you. Welcome, we are the church.