

**Fourth Sunday in Lent  
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

**WELCOME**

Whatever your religious background and however you have come to be here, we are honored that you have chosen to worship today at First Presbyterian Church. We hope you feel welcome here and inspired. May you be strengthened by the power of God to meet the challenges of your daily life.

**GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

*We begin worship with the musical prelude and lighting of the candles, reminding us of Christ's presence with us. Please use this time to make the transition from getting here to being here.*

PRELUDE *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* Johannes Brahms

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: He came that we might have life

**Many: and have it abundantly.**

One: He came that we might be healed

**Many: and to know our pain and suffering.**

One: He came that we might be forgiven

**Many: reconciling us to each other and to God.**

One: Let us shout for joy, and let the barren places sing!

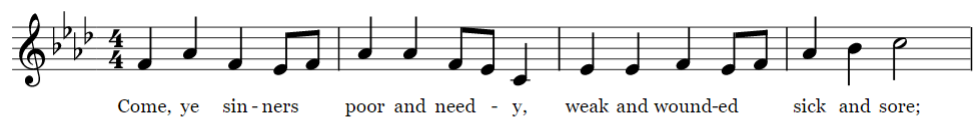
**Many: Now is the time for deliverance, now earth's redeemer has come!**

\*HYMN 37 *Let All Things Now Living* ASH GROVE

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION\***

**Holy God, if you held our sin against us, who could live? Who could stand? We have more faith in death than hope in your promise of new life. We seek peace through war and find security in weapons. Too often we ignore the hungry and neglect the sick. We pursue wealth by profiting from the poor and ravaging the earth. And yet, still you love us. Still, you offer forgiveness. You alone can save and redeem us. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...**

\*KYRIE 415 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* v.1 RESTORATION



Come, ye sin - ners poor and need - y, weak and wound-ed sick and sore;



Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y love, and power.

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

\*GLORIA 415 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*, refrain RESTORATION



I will a-rise and go to Je - sus; He will em-brace me in his arms.



In the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou-sand charms.

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*Colin Finch Walker and Evangeline Poppy Violet Walker*

**PRESENTATION**

**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**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise....**

**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.**

**THE BAPTISM**

\*HYMN 488

*Borning Cry*

WATERLIFE

**PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST READING**

Numbers 21:4-9

One: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*Ab, Holy Jesus*

Johann Cruger

**\*SECOND READING**

John 3:14-21

One: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*On Love and Snakes*

Rev. Cat Goodrich

**DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

\*HYMN 215

*What Wondrous Love is This*

WONDRIOUS LOVE

**WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS\*\*\***

*Part of your offering today is the gift of your presence.  
Please acknowledge your presence by signing the welcome book at the end of your row.*

**OFFERTORY**

*Adagio*

J. Andre

**\*THE DOXOLOGY 606**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN 749

*Come! Live in the Light!*

WE ARE CALLED

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Andante Religioso*

F. Mendelssohn

\*Please stand as you are able.

\*\*adapted from *Feasting on the Word Lenten Companion*, David Bartlett, Barbara Brown Taylor, Kimberly Bracken Long, editors.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LET THE BELLS PLAY!** Our 37-bell Rushton Memorial Carillon was the first such instrument in Birmingham and the third in the United States, when installed in 1924.

**WE WELCOME GUESTS** and celebrate that you are worshiping with us today. Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. If you are returning to a distant home, we wish you the Lord's grace and a safe journey. However, if you live in the area and are seeking a faith community, we hope you will return soon so that we may get to know you better. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at [www.fpcbham.org](http://www.fpcbham.org). May God's peace and blessing be with you.

**IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME**, our Session meets on the *first Sunday of the month* in the Chapel following the 11:00 worship service to welcome new members. If you are looking for a faith community, we hope you will make First your home.

**FOR CHILDREN:** Children's bags and bulletins are available in the Narthex (ushers can locate them for you). Please empty and return the bags after worship. While all children are welcome in worship, the following alternatives also are available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Focus on Children*, children ages 3-7 will go to the balcony, where they experience a little of what worship is like while doing learning activities related to the scripture with coloring, puzzles, books, children's bulletins and more. When the sacraments of the Lord's Supper or Baptism are celebrated, children will return to the sanctuary. We invite those in second grade and above to remain in the sanctuary and participate in the entire worship service.

**OPPORTUNITY INSERT** Please use the Opportunity Insert to relay information to the church office, including reservations for church events. Print your name and any other information you may need to relay to the office, fold the insert and put it in the offering plate.

**SERMONS** are available from our website at [www.fpcbham.org](http://www.fpcbham.org).

The **LITURGISTS** for today are Su and Zoe Reid-St. John.

The **ACOLYTES** for today are Grayson and Mary Glynn Patton.

\*\*\*If you would like to make a gift electronically, scan here to be directed to our online giving site:



*Have you remembered the church in your will?*

## MISSION CENTERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**FIRST LIGHT, INC.** is a mission center of FPC, giving shelter and support services for homeless women and children. If you would like to help, speak to our pastors or call Ruth Crosby, Executive Director (323-4277). First Light's website: [www.firstlightshelter.org](http://www.firstlightshelter.org)

**RUTH AND NAOMI SENIOR OUTREACH (RNSO)** has as its mission to become spiritual companions to isolated older adults and to call, equip, and support others to do so as well. Contact [chaplain@ruthandnaomi.org](mailto:chaplain@ruthandnaomi.org).

**THE RUSHTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER** provides quality childcare in a loving, nurturing environment – accredited by NAEYC and licensed by the Department of Human Resources. Call the CDC office at 322-8310. The Center's website is [www.eprcdc.com](http://www.eprcdc.com)

**FAITH IN ACTION ALABAMA**, a faith-based community-organizing effort FPC shares with faith communities throughout the city, works to improve quality of life for all our citizens. Faith in Action is a PICO network affiliate and can be reached at [daniel@faal.org](mailto:daniel@faal.org).

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION** provides support to First Presbyterian Church for the maintenance and upkeep of this historic sacred space built in 1889. 10% of the Foundation's annuity payment aids mission selected by session. Contact Mark Aldridge for more information.

THE REV. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Pastor and Acting Head of Staff

THE REV. CATHERINE OLIVER, Interim Associate Pastor

THE REV. JIM STANFORD, Parish Associate

MR. KYLE CRIDER, Acting Administrator

MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Secretary

MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper

MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education

DR. TIMOTHY THOMAS, Director of Music

DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Organist

MS. JULIE POTTS, Youth Director

MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton

THE REV. DR. ROBERT S. CRUTCHFIELD, Pastor Emeritus