

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

WELCOME HOME

We're delighted that you're here! With the open arms of Christ, we welcome those of every age, ability, income, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity fully into the life of the church, just as we have been welcomed.

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.

Note: Text in **bold** is spoken by all.

PRELUDE *O Welt, Ich muss dich lassen* J. Brahms

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, we sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore.
Jesus ready stands to save us, full of pity, love, and power.

*HYMN 415 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* RESTORATION

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of mercy, you sent Jesus to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior, as, in silence, we open our hearts to you...

*KYRIE 578 *O Lord, Have Mercy* ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ



O Lord, have mer - cy; O Christ, have mer-cy; O



Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*GLORIA 447 *We Are Forgiven* WE ARE FORGIVEN



We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to



God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.



We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FOCUS ON CHILDREN Patti Winter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Joshua 5:9-12

Holy wisdom, Holy word.
Thanks be to God.

SINGING THE PSALM, 446 *How Blest Those Whose Transgressions* Psalm 32

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Holy wisdom, Holy word.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* Brian L. Hanson

Honney Kim, violin

THIRD READING Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

We live not by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from God.

SERMON *Different Directions Home* Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 649 *Amazing Grace* AMAZING GRACE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Philippians 2:5-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

FOCUS ON MISSION Presbyterian Home for Children Doug Marshall

SUNG PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, 470 *There Is a Longing...* LONGING
During the singing, you are invited to come forward and add a stone to the prayer mosaic.

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

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



OFFERTORY *If Thos Art Near* J.S. Bach

*THE DOXOLOGY
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 22 *God of the Sparrow* ROEDERER

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION
May the Spirit of God strengthen and sustain you all through these forty days and into the life to come.
Amen.

Go in peace, proclaiming Christ's message of reconciliation that God has entrusted to us.
Thanks be to God.

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*POSTLUDE *Dialogo Per Organo* A. Banchieri

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS Please use the Prayer Request and Information Change cards, found in the pew rack, to relay information to the church office. Print your name and any other information you may need to relay to the office and place it in the offering plate.

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.

SERMONS are available from our website at www.fpcbham.org.

The **LITURGIST** for today is Scott Pierce.

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

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.

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

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.

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. TERRY HAMILTON-POORE, Pastor and Head of Staff
THE REV. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Associate Pastor
THE REV. JIM STANFORD, Parish Associate
MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education
DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Organist
MS. ROBIN VINES, Carillonist
MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director
MR. OWEN BLOMELEY, Facility Manager
MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Office Administrator
MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper
MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton
THE REV. DR. ROBERT S. CRUTCHFIELD, Pastor Emeritus

Have you remembered the church in your will?