

March 8, 2020

Eleven O'clock

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

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We're delighted that you're here! Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, whatever your faith or your doubts, we welcome all whom God welcomes, and that means you.

PRELUDE *Service Prelude in A flat* A. Tilleard

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT 425 *Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace (v. 1)* TANA NKAKAU MARIE

*Son of God, whose heart is peace, Son of God most holy,
to your presence we have come; give us now your love.*

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from God, who made heaven and earth.
God will not let your foot slip.

The One who keeps you will not slumber.
The One who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

God is your keeper, your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

God will keep you from all evil; God will keep your life.
**God will keep your going out and your coming in from this time
on and forevermore.**

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 720 *Jesus Calls Us* GALILEE

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of hope, you sent Jesus to lay out the pathway to new life and accompany us on the journey. Our hearts long to join him, but we are afraid to hope. We are more comfortable with familiar misery than with the risk of change. Forgive our timidity and grant us courage—the courage to extract ourselves from old ways of being, and embrace the possibility of life-giving transformation for ourselves, for our relationships, and for our world. In silence, we open our hearts to you...

*KYRIE 425 *Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace (v. 2)*

*Take away our sinfulness, evil that imprisons us;
free us from what troubles us; give our souls release.*

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*GLORIA 447 *We Are Forgiven* WE ARE FORGIVEN

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please greet one another with: "The peace of Christ be with you./ And also with you."

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SUNG INVITATION

*Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.*

FOCUS ON CHILDREN Patti Winter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Be Still and Know That I am God* David Lantz III

THE GOSPEL READING John 3:1-17

We live not by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON *Talking with Jesus: Afraid in the Dark* Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 76 *Do Not Be Afraid* ISAIAH

SILENT MEDITATION *If Jesus asked you, "Why are you afraid?" how would you respond? What do you fear, and why? [Please answer in words or images on the plain side of the paper provided, and place it in one of the baskets near the exits as you depart.] Please **do not fold**, as these will be origamied and hung near the cross.*

CALL TO PRAYER 469 *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Send us love, send us power; send us grace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and 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.

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. To be directed to our online giving site, please use your smartphone to scan here:



THE OFFERTORY *Near the Cross* arr. William Doane

*DOXOLOGY 607 OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 726 *The Summons* KELVINGROVE

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*SUNG BENEDICTION 543 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (v. 5)*

*Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me. O Christ, surround me.*

*POSTLUDE *Allegretto* A. Vivaldi

*Please stand as you are able.

WE WELCOME VISITORS Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at www.fpcbham.org.

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. We love having kids in worship, but the following alternatives are also available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Focus on Children*, children ages 3-7 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 return to the sanctuary. We invite those in second grade and above to remain in the sanctuary and participate in the entire worship service.

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.

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.

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

The LITURGIST for today is Marylyn Eubank.

Have you remembered the church in your will?



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BIRMINGHAM

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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@rutbandnaomi.org.

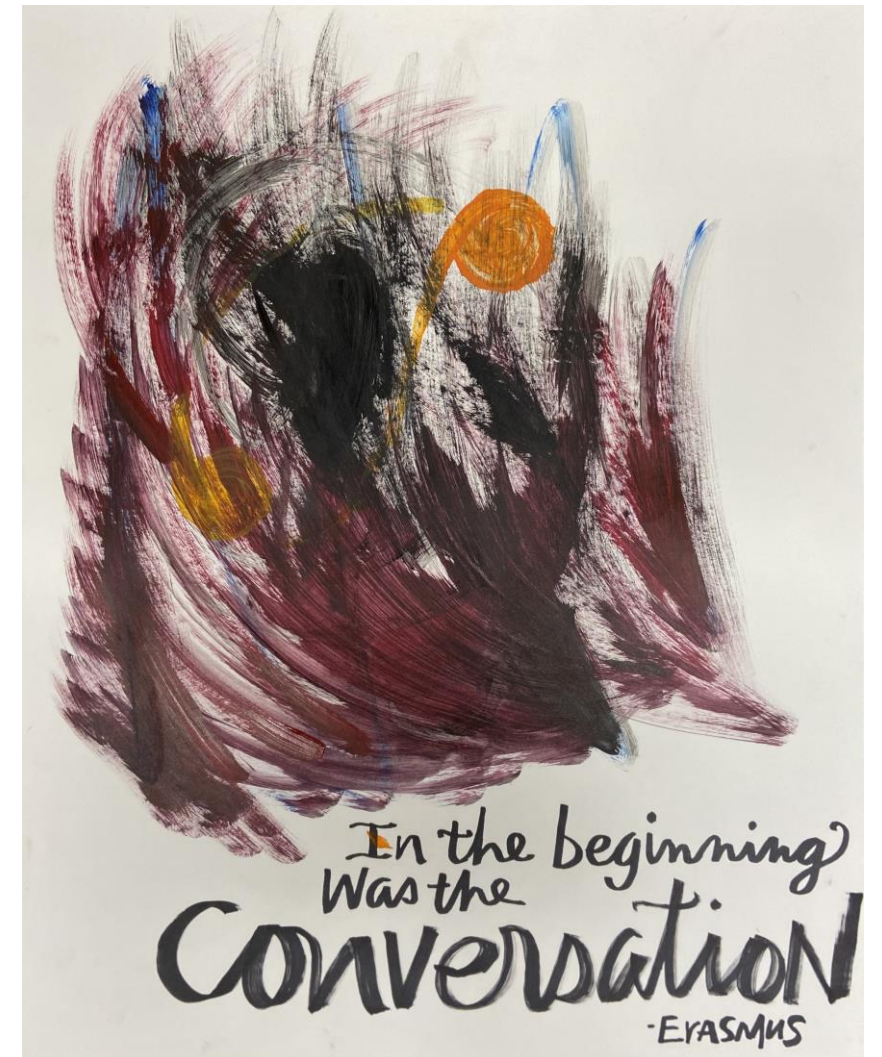
THE RUSHTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER provides quality childcare in a loving, nurturing environment – accredited by NAEYC and licensed by the Department of Human Resources. Call the CDC office at 322-8310. The Center's website is www.eprdc.com

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. PATRICK HARLEY, Parish Associate
MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education
DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Director of Music/Organist
JEFF HAIRRELL, Music Coordinator
MS. ROBIN VINES, Carillonist
MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director
MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Office Administrator
MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper
MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton
THE REV. DR. ROBERT S. CRUTCHFIELD, Pastor Emeritus

Encountering God and One Another in Lent



Art by Rafael Vallejo, 2008

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BIRMINGHAM