

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you have made us citizens of heaven, but we confess that we have set our minds on earthly things. We have let our desire for security restrain our commitment to serve the poor. We have let our fear of danger curb our obligation to love our enemies. We have let our love of things dull our generosity to the needy. We have let our craving for public status prevent our honesty about hidden sins. Yet, you know the desires of our heart and nothing is hidden from you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, conform our sin-weakened bodies to the glory of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for the world. Amen.

Words of Reconciliation

God, our light and our salvation, does not forsake us or leave us with our sin. In Christ we are forgiven and offered the gift of healing repentance.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

◆ **Response 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.

◆ **Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of the peace of Christ with one another!

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Lee J. Afdahl

O Lord our God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory through Je - sus Christ our Sav - vior A - - men.

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 104 (selected verses)

Affirmation of Faith (remain seated)

from A Brief Statement of Faith PC(USA), part 3

In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Meditation

The Gift of Life
Chancel Choir and orchestra

John Rutter

Our Response

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer (using 'debts' and 'debtors')

Offertory

At the Offertory

Suite Lyrique
Mary Schneckloth, harp

John Rutter

- ◆ **Offertory Response 708** (stanza 1) *We Give Thee but Thine Own* SCHUMANN
We give Thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

- ◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

O God, we have beheld your goodness to us. Accept the offering of the work of our hands, and use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Sending

- ◆ **Hymn 385** All People That on Earth Do Dwell OLD HUNDREDTH
- ◆ **Benediction** An Irish Blessing Jeremy Hanson
Chancel Choir

May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.

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Postlude

O Love, How Deep (Deo Gracias)

Kristina Langlois

Those who wish may be seated for the postlude. Our music is offered to the glory of God; if you want to express your appreciation, a spoken "Amen" or "Praise God" is appropriate.

Today's cantata, *The Gift of Life*, is offered to the glory of God and in memory of long-time choir member John Tillotson, and underwritten through the generosity of his wife, Linda Tillotson, now deceased as well. The works of John Rutter were favorites of John Tillotson, and Linda thought it a worthy tribute to his sharing of talents with a major work by Mr. Rutter.

We thank these people for sharing their ministries with us today:

Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church

Solo Quartet: Laura Smith, Helen Monsees, Michael Cutrer, Robert Jacobson

Tenor soloists: Casey Clements, Michael Cutrer

Orchestra:

Violin: Joan Elkins, Dwight Jennings, Anne Judisch, Amy Lindstrom, Nicholas Ouellette

Viola: Emily Blain, John Vettel

'cello: Lea Dacy, Kay Tate

Bass: Robert Gardner

Flute: Ariel Boswell, Anne Gyura, Chelsea Rostad

Oboe: Karla Sukov, Kristina Wright-Peterson

Clarinet: Michael Bostwick, Jennifer Matoush

Bassoon: Timothy Wells, Angela Whitcomb

Horn: Corey Henke, Andrea Sivertson,

Ellington Starks

Trumpet: Warren Bandel, Lettie Eckberg,

Andrew Thoreson

Trombone: Dennis McMillan, Ryan Perkins,

Jeremy Viet

Tuba: Paul Herr

Percussion and Timpani: Jeremy Braun,

Gabe Perkins

Harp: Mary Schneekloth

Conductor: Lee Afdahl

*** WEATHER ADVISORY ***

If we need to cancel services due to extreme weather conditions, we will send that announcement to KTTC-TV, KTTC.com, put it on the church's answering machine, and, if possible, send you an e-mail. Whenever canceling is a possibility, please check these sources for up-to-date information. To receive a text, send the keyword alert to 507-200-3175.

*** SAFETY ADVISORY ***

In the coming winter season when conditions can create slippery walkways, we ask all members to be responsible and wear appropriate footwear made for snow and ice and choose the safest path from your car into the building. The staff aims to keep the church walks as clear of snow/ice as possible, but each of us must also do our part for safety by exercising caution and discretion. Here's to a safe winter season!

About Our Church

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Pastor

Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor

Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music/Organist

Susanna L. Stone, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education

Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator

Kathleen M. Kuisle, Calvin and Cherub Choirs

Janine M. Yanisch, First Players bands

Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager

Child Care staff: Esther Lebron, Margie Schaaf, Brenda Thorson

Security and custodial personnel: Sally Evans, Vera Herr, Tami Rinn, Tyler Sczurek

Office hours: Monday-Thursday (7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.); Friday (7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.); Saturday (9:30 a.m.-noon)

First Presbyterian Church / 512 SW Third Street / Rochester, MN 55902

507/282-1618; web@fpcrochester.org; www.fpcrochester.org

*The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester
is to reflect God's love for all people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Member: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Calendar for the week of March 17 – March 24 (and beyond)

SUNDAY – March 17

We thank all who are sharing their ministries in worship today.

The **chancel flowers** are given for the Glory of God by Peter, Carol, and Jeff Carryer in memory of Michael John Carryer.

A **nursery** for infants through 3-year-olds is staffed throughout the morning. We also offer a space for nursing mothers. An usher will be happy to direct you if you don't know where the nursery is located.

Education hour:

- 9:40-10:45: Nursery - preschool (3-years-old)
- 9:40-10:45: Sunday school/education hour for grade 6 – adult education
- 9:40-10:20: Calvin Choir for grades 2-5
- 9:40-10:20: Sunday school for age 3-grade 1
- 10:20-10:50: Cherub Choir for age 4-grade 1
- 10:20-11:00: Sunday school for grades 2-5

Adults:

- 9:40 a.m.: *Current Issues: Clipped from the Papers* (lounge/E-207)
- 9:40 a.m.: *Kerygma Study: "The Jesus Movement and the World of the Early Church"* (south fireside room/A-104)

Chancel Choir rehearses at 9:45 a.m.

MONDAY – March 18

Esther Circle meets at 1 p.m. in the lounge.

TUESDAY – March 19

Session meets at 7 p.m. in the south fireside room.

WEDNESDAY – March 20

Priscilla Circle meets at 9:15 a.m. in the lounge.

Guest recitalist for this week's **Lenten Noontime**

Organ recital (12:15-12:45 p.m.) is Brian Williams, Director of Music and Arts at Calvary Episcopal Church.

Crafters meet at 3 p.m. in the social hall.

Rev. Parlette will lead a Bible study, "Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple," Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. during Lent (March 13 – April 17).

Wednesday Activities	
4:15	Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5)
5:00	Youth Choir (grades 6-12)
5:30	Recorder Ensemble
5:45	Middle/High School youth (grades 6-12)
6:30	Bible Study: "Simon Peter: flawed by faithful disciple" (Rev. T. J. Parlette)
7:00	Joyous Praise handbells (intergenerational)

THURSDAY – March 21

Jubilate Deo Bells rehearses at 6:15 p.m.

Chancel Choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY – March 23

Presbyterian Women will gather for a one-day retreat at Assisi Heights from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Registration forms are in the church office; fill one out and leave it in the church office with your check for \$25 made out to "Presbyterian Women."

SUNDAY – March 24

Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

A Festival of Music will present the Bemidji State Concert Choir in concert at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to host a singer (or two) on Sunday night. The Committee will contact you with more specific information.

TUESDAY – March 26

Chancel Guild meets at 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY – March 27

No choir, bells, or youth activities due to Spring Break.

A Festival of Music is hosting **Lenten Noontime Recitals** from 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. Today's guest organist is Ruth Benning, organist at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Rochester. To accommodate those attending the concert, please do *not* park in the church parking lot between 12 noon and 1 p.m. on Wednesdays in Lent.

Rev. Parlette will continue the Bible study, "Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple," Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. during Lent (March 13 – April 17).

THURSDAY – March 28

Prayer Shawl group meets at 1 p.m. in the lounge.

Jubilate Deo Bells rehearses at 6:15 p.m.

Chancel Choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY – March 31

Worship and 8:30 and 11 a.m.

For Your Information

To accommodate those attending the Lenten Noontime Organ Recitals, please do *not* park in the parking lot between 12 noon and 1 p.m. on Wednesdays in Lent

March is **Minnesota FoodShare** month. This annual drive raises one-half the food that is distributed through Channel One during the year. You can write a check to the church and designate it for "Channel One." Envelopes are in the pew racks. There's also a barrel in the atrium for food donations.

Among Our Church Family

Congratulations to Clay and Jackie Moen who will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary March 16.

Happy Birthday to Dan Moore, who will celebrate his 93rd birthday March 21.

Happy Birthday to Charles Smyrk, who will celebrate his 91st birthday March 21.

We extend our condolences to Jean Klein on the death of her grandson, Tanner Boehmke, March 5.