

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 507-282-1618

Service for the Lord's Day
February 25, 2024
Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Welcome to worship

* * * *As a courtesy to others, please silence cell phones.* * * *

Gathering

Prelude

Prelude on WONDROUS LOVE

Craig Phillips

Greeting and Welcome

Please sign the *Opportunity for Friendship* register and pass it to the person next to you.

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

(8:30 a.m.) Elizabeth Remfert

(11:00 a.m.) Wendy Shannon

Christ died for our trespasses but was raised for our justification.

Thanks be to God.

Let us worship the Lord.

◆ **Hymn 49**

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

Call to Reconciliation

*Trusting in God's promise of salvation,
let us confess our sin and repent.*

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not been sincere Christians. We claim to follow Jesus but have not taken his path of sacrificial love. We profess to be disciples, but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship. We affirm the virtue of self-denial, but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for sincere repentance through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

◆ Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.

Lamb of God

FARLEE



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace; grant us peace.

Words of Life

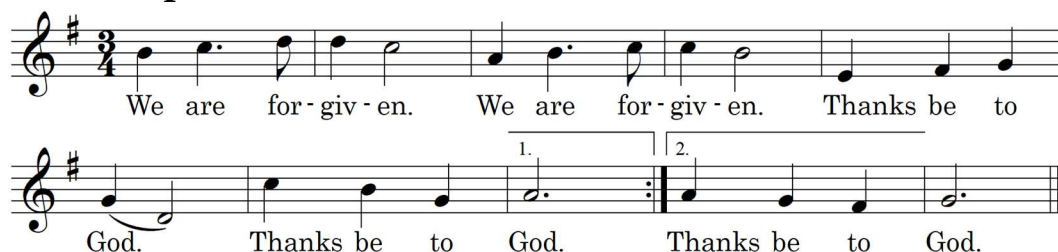
Hear the good news:

God deems as righteous all who trust that Jesus has been raised from the dead for our salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Lenten Response

GTG 447, WE ARE FORGIVEN



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

God. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Time for Young Worshipers

◆ Passing of the Peace

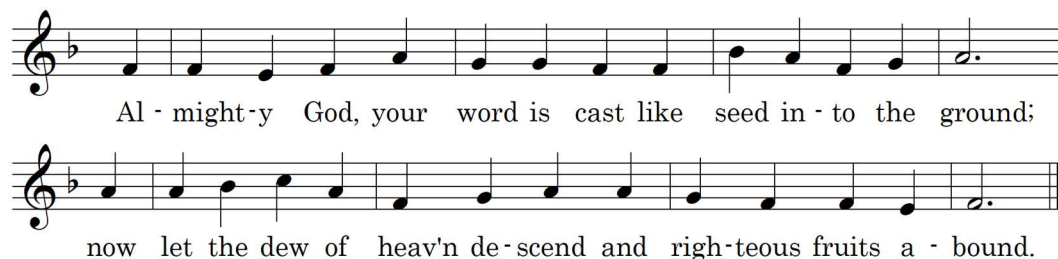
The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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

The Word

Prayer for Illumination



Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;

now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and right - teous fruits a - bound.

Reading from the Epistles

Romans 4:13-25

Reading from the Old Testament

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

◆ **Lenten Acclamation**

Joel Martinson

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

Message

The Father of Many Nations

Rev. T.J. Parlette

Our Response

◆ **Hymn 215**

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

The hymn text, first published in 1811, represents our February *HYMN OF THE MONTH*.

Its haunting melody proves the means to convince us that the only adequate response to “wondrous love” is to “sing on.”

◆ **Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles Creed (traditional)

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.

Prayers of the People

Holy God ...

... hear our prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer (*using ‘debts’ and ‘debtors’*)

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

(8:30 a.m.)

Chorale Prelude on Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639 J.S. Bach

*I call to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
I pray, hear my lamentation,
bestow your grace on me at this time,
do not let me despair...*

(11:00 a.m.) Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks Herbert Howells

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

My soul is a thirst for God yea, even for the living God.

When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me,

“Where is now thy God?”

Text: Psalm 42:1-3

Chancel Choir

◆ Offertory Response (GTG 717)

For the Life That You Have Given

PLEADING SAVIOR

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:

here we offer, Lord, our praises;

heart and mind and strength we bring;

give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

◆ Unison Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, we thank you for the covenant you established with Abraham and Sarah, which you have opened to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives, that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love and a testament to your enduring promise. In Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

◆ Hymn 838

Standing on the Promises

PROMISES

◆ Benediction

Postlude

Fantasy on WONDROUS LOVE

David Evan Thomas

The flowers are given by John & Judy Kruesel
for the Glory of God in memory of loved ones.

Stained Glass Window

What is happening around FPC ...
Week of February 25, 2024



IT'S LEAP YEAR!

- † **Sunday, February 25, 2024**
Worship—8:30am in-person
Message: *Standing Right Alongside God*,
Rev. T.J. Parlette
Christian Formation & Fellowship—9:30am
Kerygma Class—South Fireside Room
Book Discussion—Sheldon Jackson Lounge
Worship—11am in-person & livestreamed
- † **Wednesday, February 28, 2024**
FPC @ Friendship Place—4pm & 7pm
Calvin Choir—4:45pm
Wednesday Dinner—5:30pm
Main Menu: Pasta du Jour
Lenten Bible Study—6:30pm
- † **Thursday, February 29, 2024**
Jubilate Deo—6pm
Chancel Choir—7pm
- † **Sunday, March 3, 2024**
Worship & Communion—8:30am in-person
Message: *Bad for Business*,
Rev. T.J. Parlette
Christian Formation & Fellowship—9:30
Kerygma Class—South Fireside Room
Current Events—Will you lead a
discussion?
Worship & Communion—11am
in-person & livestreamed
- † **Monday, March 4, 2024**
University of Jamestown, ND
Choir Concert—7:30pm

Lunch Bunch Today @ Chester's



We are gathering today for the first **Lunch Bunch** at Chester's beginning at 12:30pm for a casual time of fellowship with one another. If you would like to carpool, please join in the atrium after the second service; otherwise we will catch you at the restaurant. All are responsible for their own costs.

The HYMN OF THE MONTH Project GTG 215 What Wondrous Love is This WONDROUS LOVE

John Stender, Director of Music

There is vague reference to Philippians 2:6-11 in our hymn of the month. (Think, "Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death.") A term used to interpret such a passage is kenosis – the act of emptying – theology. This hymn is perfect for Lent – a time when perhaps we seek to look inwardly and ask questions about our mortality, our faith values, our willingness to follow Christ. Tamping down our ego for a spell doesn't quite rise to the level of sacrifice we sing about in this hymn. However, we are singing to acknowledge the way of the cross, and to commit to 'singing on' as we seek to go that way ourselves.

(Continued on back)

UNIVERSITY OF JAMESTOWN CHOIR TOUR

The University of Jamestown Choir, led by conductor Dr. Anne Gassmann and accompanist Professor John Clodfelter, will be performing in concert at First Presbyterian Church on Monday, March 4, at 7:30pm.

Located in Jamestown, the university is a Christian university founded in the Presbyterian tradition.

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WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

BOOK DISCUSSION CONCLUDING

Today is the final meeting of the book study on purposeful aging led by Roger Ring in the Sheldon Jackson Lounge. Do you have a topic you would like to discuss during the Current Events timeframe between services? Sign up for your topic on the Current Events Class Discussion page at our SignUpGenius site or indicate your subject on the sign-up sheet by the Sheldon Jackson Lounge. All are welcome to bring their own insights to a discussion on a topic.



ARE YOU CRAFTY?

On April 28 between services in the atrium, Ellis Bloomfield will be selling his wooden bowls and Mary Huie will be selling her greeting cards. They are both donating a portion of their sales to the church project of their choice -- missions and youth respectively. Do you craft something you would like to sell that day?

Birthdays...

26 February

◆ Stephen Hammill & Thomas Pileggi

27 February

◆ Lynnette Fay, Tim Smyrk, & Marilyn Theismann

28 February

◆ Jason Kellagher

01 March

◆ Lonny Olson-Williams

02 March

◆ Jennifer Danielson & Lincoln Folkens

Anniversary...

28 February

- ♥ Peter & Linda McConahey
- ♥ Al & Joanne Schuetz

FPC needs YOU! (Part 3 of 3)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEAD USHER

- The head usher is responsible for getting things ready before the service and to make sure things are put away after the service.
- There is a checklist for the head usher duties, kept on a clipboard in the church office.
- Basically, the head usher turns lights on, sees that the candles are lit, assigns other ushers to distribute the bulletins by all the doors, and makes sure everything runs smoothly.
- The head usher is also responsible for taking attendance (getting a head count) for the service.
- The head usher does need to start at least 30 minutes before the start of the service and can expect to spend at least 15 minutes after the service.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to help usher.

Please feel free to contact Mark Mueller (markmueller@chartermi.net) with any questions about serving as an usher.

HYMN OF THE MONTH (cont.)

Christ 'bore the dreadful curse for our souls' and 'laid aside his crown.' The freedom brought by death, as the hymn says, can be viewed both in the 'now' and also in the 'not yet.' Yes, we're thinking about eternity. Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminded us that fully acknowledging the cross brings present renewal: "As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death—we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Senior Pastor
 John E. Stender, Director of Music and Organist
 Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music Emeritus
 Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
 Emmanuel Bogani, Custodian
 Beth Herr, Sunday Host

Cindy Kunzman, Office Manager
 Sarah A. Stender, Assistant Director of Music
 Janine M. Yanisch, First Players bands
 Paul Herr, Security
 Than Boutelle, Custodian/Sunday Host

Sunday worship in-person at 8:30am; and in-person and livestreamed on YouTube at 11am;
 Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9am – 4pm

First Presbyterian Church / 512 Third Street SW / Rochester, MN 55902
 (507) 282-1618; web@fpcrochester.org; www.fpcrochester.org

*First Presbyterian Church is an
 inclusive community celebrating God with:
 †Energy †Intelligence †Imagination †Love*

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