

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Presbyterian Church
Tallahassee, Florida

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023, 11:00 AM



GATHERING

Ringling of the Zimbelstern

Preparation for Worship

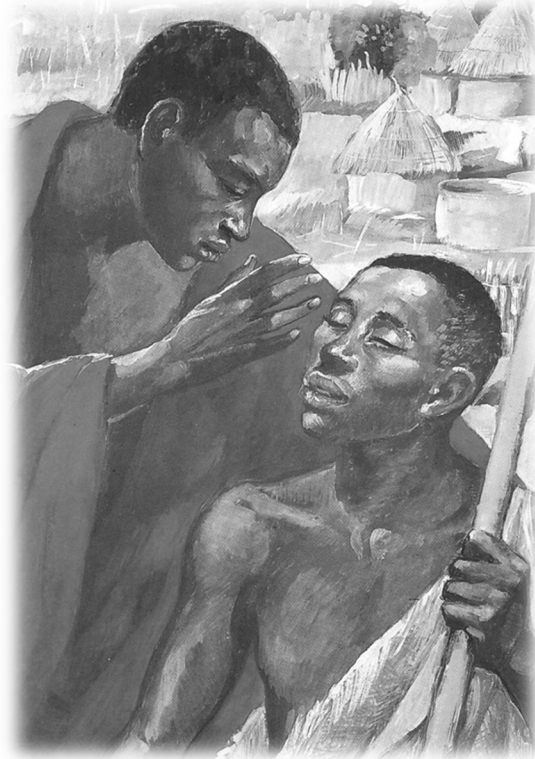
*"We need better government, no doubt about it.
But we also need better minds, better friendships,
better marriages, better communities."*

From "Think Little" by Wendell Berry (1972)

Welcome and Announcements

***How might we be set free
from a past that we cannot change,
and opened to a future
in which we can be changed?***

Voluntary *Prelude on "St. Columba"* Healey Willan
(Psalm 23)



*Please rise in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold print**.

JESUS MAFA. Jesus cures the man born blind, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr>. Commentary: JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

*Call to Worship — adapted from Nan C. Merrill, "Psalm 32" in *Psalms for Praying*

Blessed are you whose wrongdoings
have been forgiven,
whose shame has been forgotten.

**Blessed are you in whom Love Divine
finds a home,
and whose spirit radiates truth.**

When I acknowledged not my shortcomings,
I became ill though all my defenses.

**And day and night, guilt weighed heavy
constricting my heart;**

My spirit became dry as desert bones.

**I admitted my faults to the Most High,
and I made known my regret;**

**I cried out, "Forgive me, O Comforter,
for those times I have sinned in
my thoughts, my words, and my deeds;"**

And the Beloved created
within me a clean and open heart.

Therefore, let everyone who is sincere
give thanks to the Beloved;

**For whenever we feel paralyzed by fear,
we shall be embraced by Love.**

Dwelling in the Heart of the Beloved
we are free from distress,
free to live more creatively.

**O my Beloved, You are my guide,
You teach me to walk in the Light.**

Be watchful of me, counsel me as
I listen to You in the Silence.

**I pray for the gifts of inner peace and wisdom,
for the grace to reverence all of Creation.**

Many are the heartaches of those
separated from Love;

**Steadfast love abides with those
who surrender their lives into
the hands of the Beloved.**

Be glad and rejoice!

**Let your life give witness to Love's Way;
And shout for joy, all you upright of heart!**

In her Preface to *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness* (© 1996 Continuum), Nan C. Merrill, says this transliteration of the Psalms "... is in no way meant to replace the well-loved, still meaningful, and historically important Psalms of the Hebrew Scripture. May it stand as a companion, a dialogue, if you will, of one age speaking with a later age. May it serve as an invitation to listen to the Voice of Silence that speaks within your own soul."

The Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon are offered from the baptismal font. We believe that baptism enacts and seals God's grace, offered freely to all people.

John Bell (The Columba Service), © 1986, 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland; GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A711109.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light.

We keep shameful deeds secret but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue.

We see ourselves as blameless but pass judgment on others.

We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray.

Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly.

Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives.

Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

*Kyrie Eleison

John Bell

Slowly

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

*Assurance of Pardon

We are forgiven. We are free. **Amen.**

*The Peace

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

And also with you.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good, and right, and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

First Lesson

I Samuel 16:1-13

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Proclamation Hymn 827

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

Second Lesson

John 9:1-41

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

EUCCHARIST

*Affirmation 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.

Various forms of the Apostles' Creed were used from the second century onward (see "The Apostles' Creed" in *The Constitution of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Part I, Book Of Confessions*, © 2016, Office of the General Assembly, PCUSA)

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Prayers of the People

Hymn 417

Lord Jesus, Think on Me [stanza 4]

SOUTHWELL

**Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see, and share thy joy at last.**

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.**

Call to Offering

Presentation of Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Anthem

I Surrender All

arr. Victor C. Johnson

*All to Jesus, I surrender;
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.*

*All to Jesus, I surrender;
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.*

*All to Jesus, I surrender;
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power;
Let Thy blessing fall on me.*

*I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.*

*I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.*

*I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.*

*Presentation of Gifts – Hymn 165 [stanza 1]

ERHALT UNS, HERR

**The glory of these forty days
We celebrate with songs of praise;
For Christ, by whom all things were made,
Himself has fasted and has prayed. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Presentation by Interim Pastor and the Restoration Visioning Committee

SENDING

*Hymn 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

*Charge and Benediction

*Voluntary

Out of the depths I cry, Lord, to thee (Psalm 130)

Christian Geist

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

Presider and Preacher

Reverend Anne H.K. Apple

Liturgist

Jan Bush

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Peggy West

Choir

The Adult Choir

Interim Choir Director

Ethan Murphy

Organist

Elizabeth Lajeunesse

Video Team

Owen Nichols and Carl Morse

“Kingdom” or “Kindom”?
Our Scriptures were developed when Kingdoms were the going community structure. We realize now that other Biblical metaphors, like *koinonia*, more adequately capture the communities of care and genuine kin-ships about which Jesus taught and preached.

Victor C. Johnson is a composer and arranger of over 350 vocal works and keyboard collections. He currently serves as the Minister of Worship and Arts at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Plano, TX.

NOTES ABOUT THIS LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

“Lent” comes from an old English word for springtime, perhaps connected with the lengthening of days in this time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The season of Lent is a time for growth in faith—through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ.

— *Book of Common Worship* © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press, p. 233

ANNOUNCEMENTS

During worship today we will hear a presentation from the Interim Pastor and the Restoration Visioning Committee. The Session has adopted three goals for itself and the congregation during this interim season:

- 1) Increasing congregational vitality by promoting intentional spiritual practices and enhanced communication among staff, ruling elders and congregants regarding the life and mission of our church.
- 2) Encouraging and exploring worship and programmatic activities that build community and promote faith development.
- 3) Improving the organizational structure of the church, drawing from the Session manual adopted August 16, 2020.

The overarching objective is to position First Presbyterian to be well prepared to receive a new pastor, and with confidence to form a Pastor Nominating Committee for the purpose of extending a call to a new pastor.

The Compassion and Social Justice Committee at First Presbyterian Church has received the first Community Action Grant awarded by the Committee on Mission and Outreach (Presbytery of Florida) to support the **Guns to Garden ministry**. The congregation commissioned this ministry on November 27, 2022 as a way to make its public witness to end gun violence. A community event is planned for June.

Each Wednesday in Lent, join pastors Greta Reed and Anne Apple at noon in the Westminster Room for *Lectio and Lunch* (brown bag). We will study next Sunday’s scriptures with the *Lectio Divina* practice.

Stuffed Easter Eggs. Looking towards Easter Sunday, we are planning an intergenerational breakfast at 9:30 AM and an Easter Egg hunt. You can help by bringing one or more dozen plastic eggs, stuffed with your favorite treat(s)—stickers, coins, candy! There will be a basket outside the front office to start collecting your contributions. Thank you!

Children are welcome in this service as full members of God’s family. Learning in Worship packets are in the narthex. Parents and children are invited to use whatever is useful in them. Child care for children under the age of kindergarten is in the Education Building.

Restrooms are located in this building through the door at the end of each aisle. Please note that during worship the **Education Building** is locked. Please enter through the breezeway door.

An induction loop system is available in the sanctuary. To use the system, switch your compatible hearing aid to the T—telephone mode or request a wireless receiver/headset is available from an usher.

Large print versions of the hymnal *Glory to God* and Sunday Order of Service are available from ushers.

Newsletters and brochures are in the narthex display rack.

Adult Choir rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the choir room. Anyone interested in singing is welcome to join. For more information, please contact Ethan Murphy.

MEMBERS OF SESSION 2022-23

<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Emily Bruno	Peggy Wright-Cleveland	Jane Atkinson
Carol Grondzik	Chris Corzine, Clerk	Donna Barber
Theresa Heiker	Will Fixel	Carolyn Bradley
Robyn Stevenson	John Hightower	Debbie Gibson
Tip Tomberlin	Martha Kutter	Patrick Kennedy
Carol Weissert	Norma Meier	Sue Safford
Carol Wynn	Peggy West	David Strange

INTERIM PASTOR	Reverend Anne H.K. Apple
Organist	Elizabeth Lajeunesse
Interim Choir Director.....	Ethan Murphy
Christian Education Coordinator ...	Eleanor Cleveland
Christian Education Assistant	Jacqueline Cruz
Office Administrator	Lori Touchton
Financial Administrator.....	Jim Davis
Custodian and Sunday Host.....	Becky Brown
Building and Grounds Maintenance.....	José Cruz

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