

If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the marked basket nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.

A special thank you to our ushers!

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Betsy Conzelman, Margaret Cooper, Mildred Moore Lopez, Pat K. Rowlett, Carol Taylor, David Taylor

Cover Image: *Jesus Casts Out the Unclean Spirit*, Très Riches Heures du duc de Berry Manuscript, Herman, Paul, and Johan Limbourg, between 1412 and 1416, Musée Condé, Chantilly, France, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.



31 January 2021

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

Order of Worship

Prayer of Preparation

Merciful God, through the cross you opened the way for all who will accept your Lordship and to receive your mercy to be redeemed. We praise your name. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *We Come to You for Healing, Lord* Gieschen

*Call to Worship

Let every worshiper of Christ enter this day for worship!

We were once unclean and entangled in the ways of sin.

The saving power of the Lord is beyond all we might imagine,
Not even the powers of the evil one can stand before the Christ.

Then let our hearts be joined in praise for God's redeeming love.
Together let us pray.

God of the universe, whose wisdom pervades all creation, we gather before you to give you all praise and honor. Wonderful and majestic are your works; righteousness is seen in all that you do. You make a covenant and call us as heirs of its promise. You establish your law, showing all people that you are to be trusted. In company with the redeemed of all ages, we lift our voices to acclaim your worth.

In the name of Jesus Christ, let us worship God!

Anthem *Will You Come and Follow Me* Bell, Maule
Scottish tune

Prayer of Confession

O God, in many of the events that make up our lives we allow ourselves to see only hopelessness and despair. We abandon the true hope you gave to us. Forgive us and help us keep our focus on your promises and not the workings of the world or the powers of darkness.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” **Matthew 22:37-39**

Prayer of Illumination

Lesson Mark 1:21-28
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon A New Teaching The Rev. Edward Bellis

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostle's 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.

Anthem *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult* Holden-Holloway

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *Balm in Gilead* Utterback