

Anthem *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* spiritual

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ* Piutti

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: Beth Foley, Bill Harris, Margaret Cooper, Mildred Moore Lopez, Pat K. Rowlett, Carol Taylor, David Taylor

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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.



Baptism of Jesus, Lorenzo Scott, 1987, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

21 February 2021
1st Sunday in Lent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

Order of Worship

Prayer of Preparation

Loving God, you have made covenant with us and with every living creature. We give thanks for the sign of the rainbow, for it reminds you and us of your promise: that the flood of destruction will not be the last word. We thank you, too, for the waters of baptism, the sign that we are raised as children of the covenant; through Jesus Christ our Lord. And we thank you for the sign of the dove, the promise of your Holy Spirit. Hovering over the dawn of creation, descending upon your beloved Son, your Spirit also hovers over and descends upon us. With the whole creation, we give you all glory and honor. In your triune name we pray. Amen.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Lenten Voluntary* Jordan

***Call to Worship** adapted from Psalm 25:1-10 (CEB)

I offer my life to you, Lord. My God, I trust you.
Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—
because you are the God who saves me.**

I put my hope in you all day long.
Lord, remember your compassion and faithful love—
they are forever!

**But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing.
Remember me only according to your faithful love
for the sake of your goodness, Lord.**

The Lord is good and does the right thing;
he teaches sinners which way they should go.
**All the Lord's paths are loving and faithful
for those who keep his covenant and laws.**

Anthem *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days* Hernaman

Confession

**God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession.
We do not live according to your ways, but according to our
own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice,
and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others.
Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths
other than those you set before us. Teach us your
commandments; help us to turn from evil in its many guises,
and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. In
covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once
more and always, an ark of safety and new life. In Christ's
name we pray. Amen.**

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 1:9-15
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Become Friends With God* The Rev. Lloyd Griffith

***Affirmation of Faith** Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.31
**The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the
life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become
personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the
gospel is proclaimed and believed.
In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all,
moves people to respond in faith, repentance and obedience,
and initiates the new life in Christ.**