

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

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

Order of Worship

21 February 2021

1st Sunday in Lent

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

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.

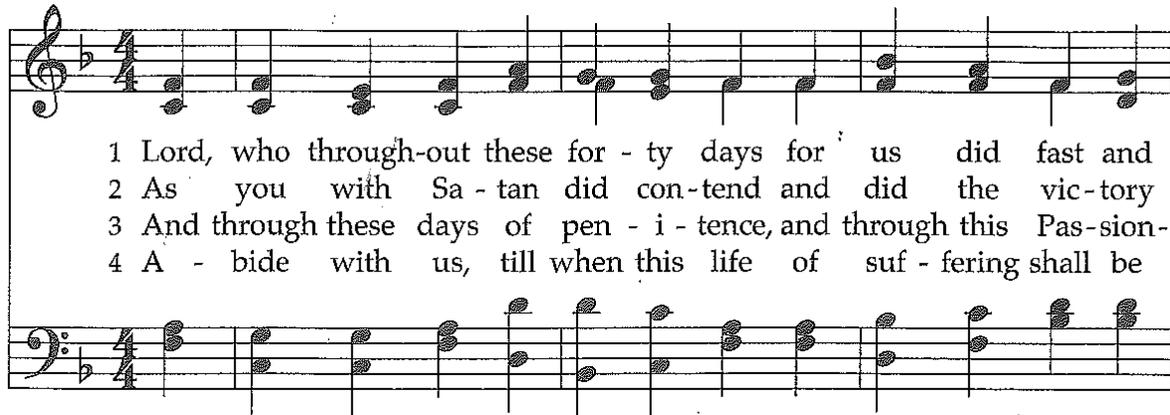
**Remember me only according to your faithful love
for the sake of your goodness, Lord.**

The Lord is good and does the right thing;
he teaches sinners which way they should go.

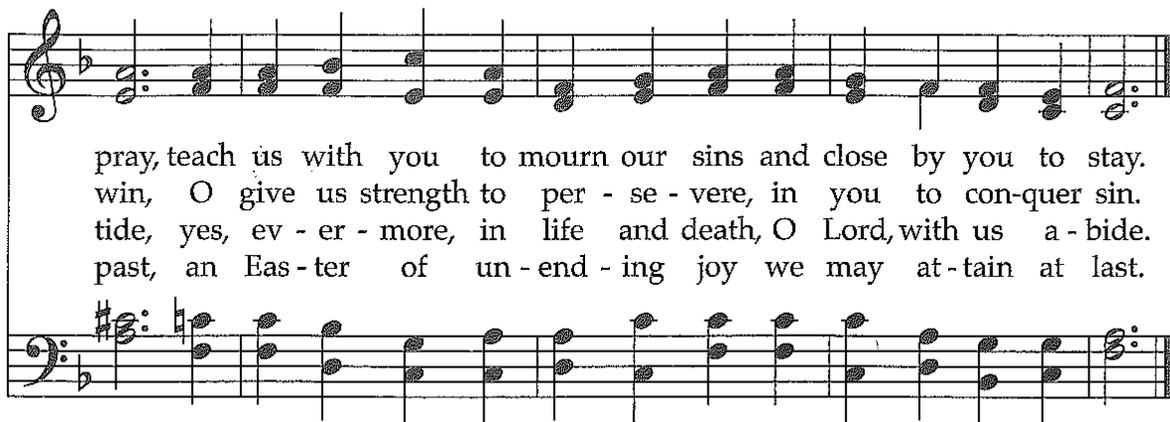
**All the Lord's paths are loving and faithful
for those who keep his covenant and laws.**

Hymn*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Hernaman/1562



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-
4 A - bidde with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be



pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bidde.
past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

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.

Anthem

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

American Spiritual

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

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

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