

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

*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.*



*Christ Carrying the Cross, Sebastiano del Piombo, ca. 1535-1540, Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN*

28 February 2021  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

# Order of Worship

## Prayer of Preparation

*We are grateful, O God, for the Patriarchs and Matriarchs of the Faith who have gone before. As we gather in this place, we reflect upon how indebted we are for those who have set the example of faith by their humility, obedience, and righteousness before you. Their words and their actions have reverberated through human history. Most of all, we give thanks for the life, death, and Resurrection of Christ. Amen.*

## Welcome

## Chiming of the Trinity

**Prelude**      *Ah How Fleeting Are Man's Treasures*      Piutti

**\*Call to Worship**      from Psalm 22

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters,  
and lead them in praise.

**You did not despise the afflicted  
nor turn a deaf ear when they cried to you.**

All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O God;  
all families shall worship the Lord.

**We will tell of your deeds to those who follow,  
and proclaim your deliverance to all.**

Let us worship God!

**Anthem**      *Take Up Your Cross*      Everest/Lewis

## Confession

**Merciful God, through the centuries you have continued to provide for your children and to bless us. Yet in an instant of uncertainty, we forget your many promises. Your Scriptures reveal accounts of faithfulness and servanthood, but we focus instead on the temporary, and act in self-interest. Forgive our short-sighted ways, dear God. Lift our gaze to the eternal horizon and unending promises you wish us to see. Bring peace to our restlessness and assurance to our anxiety. In the name of Christ, forgive our failures and restore us as your faithful servants.**

## *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**      Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and Mark 8:31-38  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**      *Faithfulness through Generations*      Elder Steve Mabie

**\*Affirmation of Faith**      From the Scots Confession (1560)

**We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we must put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his own inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory. Amen.**

**Anthem**      *To Serve*      John Horman

## Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

## Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

## Benediction

**Postlude**      *Lenten Postlude*      Koch