



First Presbyterian Church

New Bern, North Carolina

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

13 March 2022
2nd Sunday of Lent

Worship for the Lord's Day

Prayer of Preparation

St. Catherine of Siena

O eternal Trinity, my sweet love! You, light, give us light. You, wisdom, give us wisdom. You, supreme strength, strengthen us. Today, eternal God, let our cloud be dissipated so that we may perfectly know and follow Your Truth in truth, with a free and simple heart. God, come to our assistance! Lord, make haste to help us! Amen.

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

arr. H. Hassler

Introit

I Will Call Upon the Lord

O'Shields

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 65:5-8

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

**Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**

Let us worship God!

***Hymn 475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robinson/1813

Confession

Almighty God, no words can express the depth of our need or reveal the extent of our sin. But you know us completely, O God. When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. You rescue us from evil and clothe us with love.

(Pause for a time of silent confession)

Humbly, we thank you; for no words can express our gratitude for the gift of your salvation. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

Matthew 22:37-39

“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.’”

(11 am) Children's Moment

The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Lord's Prayer

Hymnal p. 35

*2nd-grade children or younger may depart for Children's
Worship and Wonder in the Ministry Center*

Anthem

Change My Heart, O God

Eddie Espinosa

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

Luke 18: 9 – 14

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

***Affirmation of Faith**

from the Confession of Belhar

We believe that the unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity;

***Hymn 735**

I Need Thee Every Hour

Hawks/Lowry

(11 am) **Welcome of New Members**

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Amy Lynn to the glory of God and in honor of her parents, Dr. J.W. and Audrey (Pat) Lynn.

We celebrate the 90th birthday of Betsy Hillhouse, which was on March 11.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Medema

Benediction

Postlude

The Wonderful Cross

Reeves, Tomlin and Wait

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

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Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Bass: Winston Dixon

Ensemble: Resurrection Singers

To see art focused on
and inspired by
today's scripture
reading,
look here:



WELCOME VISITORS! Please write your name on a visitor's badge for your blouse or lapel. Along with our members, please sign the Friendship Pad when passed to you during the service.

CHILDREN are welcome at First Presbyterian Church. The nursery is available for infants and preschool children in Room 1.23 in the Ministry Center from 8:15 am-12:15 pm. Following the Children's Moment, those in the 2nd grade or younger may depart for Children's Worship and Wonder in the Ministry Center. For all children in worship, there are worship bags available at the front and back of the Sanctuary.

RESTROOMS are available in the Ministry Center, (including a family restroom), the Session House, and the Fellowship Center.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES with ear coverings are available. Please ask an usher if you have need.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY is provided by ramps between the Ministry Center and the Sanctuary, in the back of the Ministry Center, along the side of the Session house, and at the front and side entrances of the J. Murphy Smith Fellowship Center.

MASKS are now optional for worship and church activities, following current medical advice and decreasing infection and hospitalization numbers. We encourage anyone who has a need or will be more comfortable wearing a mask to please feel free to do so. The Session continues to monitor the situation and changes will be noted on our website and communicated by email. If you'd like to be added to the church email list, please contact cathy@firstpresnb.org or visit firstpresnb.org/communications (scroll to the bottom of the page).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESL Classes

ESL classes will resume at First Presbyterian Church in March, meeting on Mondays at 10:00 am, and Saturdays at 9:00 am. We are especially excited to restart this English literacy program for our Montagnard community after two years of the Covid shutdown. To ensure we have a smooth-running operation, **we need additional tutor volunteers.** We strive to have our tutors typically tutor twice a month for an hour to an hour and a half at a time. We provide training so prior tutoring experience is not necessary. Contact Gene Peele (gpeele@centurylink.net) if you are interested in learning more about our ESL program or shadowing one of our tutors to see how it works.

Nominations for Session Class of 2025

The Session Nominating Committee would like the Congregation to nominate members for the Session class of 2025. Please prayerfully consider those whom you think would be willing to serve the Church. You may email your nominations to Margaret Cooper at cooperme@embarqmail.com or you can fill out the nomination form and leave it in the basket in the Narthex. Please have the nominations by **TODAY, March 13.**

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

We are in the season of Lent, so it is time for the One Great House of Sharing Offering. This special offering focuses on relieving hunger, responding to disasters, and alleviating poverty. The money is divided approximately into thirds among the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. In the last few years, a substantial amount of that money found its way back through New Hope Presbytery to Pamlico County to rebuild after Florence. There are OGHS envelopes in the offering envelope booklets and there will also be envelopes available on Sunday mornings in worship. And, for children, youth, and anyone else who wants one, OGHS fish boxes are now available! The fish boxes and envelopes will be collected on Palm Sunday and Easter.

Crisis in Ukraine – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

The current Russian invasion that started on February 24 follows eight years of conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of people across the country are enduring bombings and assault by Russian military forces; and have lost power, been cut off from water and fuel. As people head toward the western regions, there is a shortage of food and other basic supplies. The UN anticipates that as many as 6.7 million will be displaced internally. Likewise, Ukrainians are fleeing to neighboring countries, primarily to Poland, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, while others have moved to other European countries. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working to fund sister churches and partner ecumenical organizations already in place in the region. To help support this work: Gifts can be made online, by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAUKR to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line and mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Education

Sunday School classes meet Sundays 9:40-10:40 am

Sunday School for Children

Preschool – active play in the Nursery

Kindergarten-5th Grade – Ministry Center Room 1.27 (Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living).

Middle & High School – Ministry Center Room 2.23-24 (Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living).

Confirmation for 8th and 9th Graders

Confirmation is a time when, through study and prayer, youth prepare to profess their faith and take the vows of membership in the church. At First Presbyterian, this usually takes place in the 8th-grade year or later. We will have a Confirmation Class starting March 20 during the Sunday school hour, 9:40-10:40 am. Please contact Anna Pinckney Straight ASAP about participating (anna@firstpresnb.org or (252) 637-3270).

Worship and Sacraments Class for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Graders

When a child is baptized, the parents or guardians promise to teach the child about God and God's love. At the same time, the congregation makes a promise to help the child grow in faith. As the child grows in mind and body, it is the duty of everyone in the family and faith community who loves that child, to provide opportunities for learning that will lead the child to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. At First Presbyterian Church, one of the ways we fulfill this duty is through the Worship and Sacraments Class. The Worship and Sacraments Class is for children in 2nd grade or older and their parents/guardians. The class teaches the children about the Sacraments of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and components of worship. The class meets in the Session House on March 20, 27, and April 3 from 12:15-1:30 pm. Please let Maren Sonstegard-Spray know ASAP (maren@firstpresnb.org or at (252) 637-3270) if your family will be participating.

Youth Fellowship

JOY (Just Older Youth), our youth fellowship for middle and high schoolers, meets tonight 5:30-7:30 pm in the Session house.

Save the date for VBS – June 13-17! More info to come!

Sunday School for Adults

The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor

The class has begun a new series "God Frees and Redeems." This series examines the nature of God through the lenses of liberation and Christian freedom. God's deliverance is experienced in the story of the Passover and the good news of Easter. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

Tell It Slant/Wendy Moeller - Ministry Center Room 2.21 and on Zoom

Being offered in the Owl Classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center (and on Zoom) will be a class on Eugene Peterson's book Tell it Slant. Peterson is the author of The Message paraphrase of the Bible and of several books we have previously done in Sunday school: Traveling Light (on Galatians), Leap Over a Wall (about King David) in 2013, and Run with the Horses (on Jeremiah). Tell It Slant spends time with Jesus and his entourage on their way from Galilee to

Jerusalem as they travel through Samaria, exploring eleven parables in ten chapters in the middle of the Gospel of Luke. Peterson does not disappoint! The class will continue through the end of May, will be led by Wendy Moeller. You can purchase the book if you are interested in reading it; it is helpful but not necessary. If you need the Zoom information, please contact Cathy Wingfield (cathy@firstpresnb.org).

Glittering Vices: A look at the Seven Deadly Sins/Maren Sonstegard-Spray - Session House Main Room

During the season of Lent, a time of self-examination and reflection, let's take a closer look at the seven deadly sins (also known as the seven capital vices). The study of vices has a revealing and illuminating power and can be the starting point for spiritual growth. We will be guided by Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung's book "Glittering Vices" (but no need to buy the book) and feel free to join in for any of the classes. We will meet 9:40-10:40 am in the Session House Main Room.

Church Membership Class/Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight - Ministry Center Conference Room (in the Staff Office Suite)

Would you like to know more about what it means to become a member of First Presbyterian? On **March 6 and 13** we will be offering an introduction to church membership with the opportunity to become a member and be welcomed either at the 11:00 worship service on March 13 or the 8:30 worship service on March 20. If you have questions or would like to know more, please contact Anna Pinckney Straight (anna@firstpresnb.org or 252-637-3270).

Mid-Week Formation Opportunities

Monday Evening Women's Bible Study

The group meets on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM via Zoom. Join us as we read *It's Not About Me* by Max Lucado, a well-known pastor and prolific author, familiar to many in our congregation. For more information or to get on our list, please call Marice Debruhl 637-5468 (h), Cathy Wingfield 828-767-0975 (c), or Wendy Moeller 876-7259 (c).

Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support

The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Chapel. This ongoing group provides its members with companionship, understanding, support, and guidance as we seek to go on living when someone we love dies. All are welcome. Come and bring a friend. Contact Lloyd Griffith for more information.

Life of Prayer: The Practice of Contemplative Living

Led by Lloyd Griffith on Wednesdays noon-1:00 pm and meets in Ministry Center Room 2.21 and by Zoom in a hybrid format. The group will be studying "Soul Force" by Lloyd Griffith and "Immortal Diamond" by Richard Rohr.

Wednesday Evening Contemplative Worship

Led by Lloyd Griffith and meets in the Chapel in the Ministry Center. This contemplative, or reflective, approach to worship is offered each Wednesday from 5 to 5:30 pm. This quiet service is focused on silence, prayer, and reflection on the Biblical text chosen for preaching the coming Sunday. The Lord's Supper is observed on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Come when you can and bring a friend.

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

We are studying "Lent in Plain Sight" by Jill Duffield. Our Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study meets weekly 10-11 am by Zoom. The book is available for purchase on Amazon (Kindle version also available). If you need help acquiring the book or want to be added to the email list for the class, please contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

Wine and Theology TODAY

Open to anyone interested in wine AND theology! We will meet Sunday, **March 13**, at Cravin' Wine (2500 Trent Rd Suite 16, located in Trent Road Plaza) at 4:00 pm. This will be a casual gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith. Wine will be available for purchase for \$5 a glass with some small bites to go with it. Jody Sherman from Temple B'nai Sholem will share her experiences with the Seder meal, wines, and the practices of Passover. Questions? Contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

Calvin and Hops (Men's Beer and Theology)

The next gathering of Men's Beer and Theology ("Calvin and Hops") will meet at Brewery 99 (1014 Pollock St) at 4:00 pm, Sunday, **March 20**, led by Ken Wilkins. This is a casual men's gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith. Don't let any bad weather stop you from coming – a nice indoor space for gathering is also available!

Church Email List and Church Newsletter

We communicate a lot of things happening in the life of the church through emails through Constant Contact. If you would like to receive regular announcements or the newsletter, or both, please contact Cathy Wingfield (cathy@firstpresnb.org) or sign up on the church website!

Looking for Reception Volunteers

If you enjoy working with friendly people in a terrific environment and can volunteer your time on weekdays from either 9 am to 1 pm or 1-5 pm, please contact the church office (252-637-3270). We are looking for a few more smiling faces to join our awesome group of volunteers!

Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for the church to honor an anniversary, birthday, or memorial date coming up this spring or summer, please see the Flower Calendar in the pink folder in the Narthex.

Nametags

We want to encourage everyone to get in the habit of wearing their nametags! If you have misplaced yours, Marcy, our Office Administrator, is happy to make you another one (marcy@firstpresnb.org). There are boards in the Narthex where you can leave your nametag at the end of the service, and it will be waiting for you the next Sunday.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES: PRAYER

March 6

Jesus' Super Power: Prayer

Luke 4: 1 - 13

March 13

Coming Clean in Prayer

Luke 18: 9 - 14

March 20

Stubborn Thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

March 27

Prayer is also Lament

Psalms 6 & 88

April 3

Praying without Speaking

Luke 4: 31 - 37

April 10

Praying Your Wants

Matthew 26-36

Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes a covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all. 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.