



First Presbyterian Church

New Bern, North Carolina

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

20 March 2022

3rd Sunday of Lent

Worship for the Lord's Day

Prayer of Preparation

*Holy Presence, you call us into life as your people,
bound by water and the spirit to one another.*

*From the shadows of our past, draw us into new community
with hearts and minds open to the future.*

Living Spirit of Light, fall afresh on us.

Renew us as instruments of hope.

This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams

David Schack

Introit

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Walford/Bradbury

***Call to Worship**

from Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;

wait for the Lord! Let us worship God!

***Hymn 187**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1836/Bradbury

Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

(Pause for a time of silent confession)

In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. 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

Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire

Montgomery/Dykes

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

***Affirmation of Faith**

from a Brief Statement of Faith

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Hymn 435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Faber/Dutch melody

(8:30am) **New Member Welcome**

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Ben and Nicole Avolis to the glory of God and in honor of their daughter Salem's first birthday.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Response

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Walford/Bradbury

Benediction

Postlude

Lenten Postlude

Matthew Koch

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.

The prayer of preparation is from [Living the Christ Life: Rediscovering the Seasons of the Christian Year](#) by Louise Mangan and Nancy Wyse with Lori Farr. Used with permission.

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



Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

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 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 watch 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

Welcome Catherine Campbell! Today we welcome the Rev. Catherine Campbell to First Presbyterian Church. Catherine is our new Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. As she begins her ministry with us and starts getting to know the children, youth, and families of FPC, we hope that you will take some time to get to know her and her generous, joyful spirit! If you would like to reach out to her, you can find her at catherine@firstpresnb.org.

New Facilities Team Forming

With our recent changes in the staffing of our Facilities Team, we recognize the need for volunteers in a number of capacities. "Many hands make light work" is truth in action. Whether you have time according to a predictable schedule, or you are available for an odd job, we need your assistance. Certainly, we want to know if you have special trade or maintenance skills, but none are needed for most jobs. Interested? Like working with fellow church members and making new friends? Then come to our first meeting and hear our new Facilities Supervisor Mike Wildauer (mike@firstpresnb.org; 252-637-3270) describe the needs and the work involved. Join us for coffee and a light breakfast on **Thursday, March 31st at 8:30am** in the Lighthouse. You'll get to meet Mike and share your abilities and availabilities.

April Fellowship Meal

Mark your calendar for our April Fellowship meal to be served on Wednesday, **April 6, 2022**, in the Fellowship Center. A traditional Easter meal will be served.

The meal will be served from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Take-out meals will be available beginning at 5:30 pm. We ask that anyone requesting takeout meals come inside to pick them up. Please email or call the Church by Monday, **April 4th** to show your intentions to attend. If you know that you would like take-out meals, please let us know. We look forward to seeing you April 6th! Your Fellowship Team

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.

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 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

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross Blood drive will take place on **Thursday, April 7**, from 9am-1:30pm in the Session House. Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: `firstpresbnb` to schedule an appointment.

Education

Sunday School classes meet on 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).

Youth Fellowship

JOY (Just Older Youth), our youth fellowship for middle and high schoolers, and SALT (Serving and Learning Together) for 3-5th graders meet 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). **Not meeting today – will resume next week.**

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 any of the classes. We will meet 9:40-10:40 am in the Session House Main Room.

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.

Will not meet March 23.

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 NEXT BOOK

Starting on Thursday, April 28 we will study "Miracles and Other Reasonable Things: A Story of Unlearning and Relearning God" by Sarah Bessey (the keynote speaker for the Montreat Women's Conference in August). Our Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study meets weekly 10-11am 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).

Calvin and Hops (Men's Beer and Theology) TODAY

The next gathering of Men's Beer and Theology ("Calvin and Hops") will meet at Brewery 99 (1014 Pollock St) at 4:00 pm, TODAY, Sunday, **March 20**, led by Brian Gatchel. 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!

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.

Flowers for Sunday Worship

Spring is a great time to celebrate a birthday, an anniversary, or honor a loved one who has passed! See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex for available dates.

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 people are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.