



David, Sir Frederic Leighton, 1865, Cleveland Museum of Art, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

27 March 2022

4th Sunday in Lent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

Worship for the Lord's Day

Prayer of Preparation

*As Sarah lamented barrenness,
As Hagar lamented being cast out,
As Moses lamented for his people's oppression,
As Amos lamented the fall of his people from God's covenant,
As Jesus lamented over broken systems of religion and government,
As Mary Magdalene lamented the death of her friend and teacher,
We too cry out, as we share our sorrow for our own struggles,
for God's people, and all of creation. Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude	(11:00) <i>Brethren, We Have Met to Worship</i>	Moore/arr. DeWitt
	<i>Sanctuary Bells</i>	
	<i>Lamenting</i>	Johann Topfer
Introit	<i>Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart</i>	Pashto hymn

*Call to Worship

Lamentations 3:19-24

I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.

**I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.**

Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:

**Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.**

They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

**I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for God."**

Confession

For our unwillingness to feel the suffering of others,
and our readiness to live comfortably with injustice.

Forgive us, O God.

For our self-righteousness that denies guilt,
and our self-interest that strangles compassion.

Forgive us, O God.

For our abuse of this planet and our exploitation of its resources.

Forgive us, O God.

For our failings in community and our reticence to become involved.

Forgive us, O God.

For the times we were too eager to be better than others,
when we were too rushed to care,
when we were too tired to bother,
when we were too preoccupied to listen,
when we were too quick to act out of motives other than love.

Forgive us, O God.

Silent Confession

May God forgive us, Christ renew us,
and the Spirit enable us to grow in love. **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. Catherine Campbell

Lord's Prayer

Hymnal p. 35

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

Anthem

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Mueller

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

Psalm 6 and 88

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

***Affirmation of Faith**

from The Heidelberg Catechism (4.116-117)

Why do Christians need to pray?

Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us. And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking God for them.

What is the kind of prayer that pleases God and that he listens to?

First, we must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God, revealed to us in his Word, asking for everything God has commanded us to ask for. Second, we must fully recognize our need and misery, so that we humble ourselves in God's majestic presence. Third, we must rest on this unshakable foundation: even though we do not deserve it, God will surely listen to our prayer because of Christ our Lord. That is what God promised us in his Word.

***Hymn 797**

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

Bell, Maule/Scottish tune

(11 am) **Minute for Mission**

Amanda Delgado and Kellie Cornell, Coastal Women's Shelter

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Nancy Melling to the glory of God and in memory of her parents, Ron and Donna Fleck.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Response

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Taizé/Berthier

Benediction

Postlude

Passion Chorale
Prelude, Opus 38, no. 2

J. S. Bach
Wladyslaw Zelenski

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.

Prayer of Confession from the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness

Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the 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

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 8:30 am** 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 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.

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 9 am-1:30 pm 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, 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 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, 12:00-1:00 pm in the 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 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 10-11 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).

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!

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

Do you have a birthday, an anniversary, or a memorial date coming up this spring or summer? See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex for available dates to provide a flower arrangement.

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 5:12-28

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.