



5th Sunday
of

Lent

*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024

* = You are invited to stand if able
Items in **bold** are congregational responses

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME–

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

JOYS AND SORROWS

PRAYER OF PREPARATION AND PRELUDE (Silent Prayer)

Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain, and we are afraid. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 51)

Led by Liturgist

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love;

**People: According to your abundant mercy,
blot out our transgressions.**

Leader: You desire truth in our deepest selves,
so teach our hearts wisdom.

**People: Let us hear your joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God;
put new and right spirits within us.

**People: Sustain in us willing spirits and restore us to the joy of
your salvation. Let us worship God!**

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Lord, be with us this day as we commit ourselves to being your disciples. Help us to face the future unafraid, trusting in your loving care and presence with us. We pray this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

***HYMN: "Open My Eyes That I May See" Blue 324**

***INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION Pastor**

***CHORUS: "Spirit of the Living God" Blue 322**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Living Christ, with whom we journey to the cross, we confess that we are always looking for an easier way. We long for the fullness of life with you, but we are slow to abandon the comforts of the life we know. We seek the fruit of new life, but we are not willing to die to ourselves. Yet you offer the grace of life abundant, even when our best efforts fall short. Transform us, renew us, and free us from our attachment to what was, so that you might bring us into the glory of what will be. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***KYRIE: *Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.***

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (from Hebrews 10:16-18)

Friends, hear the good news! We worship a God who forgives our iniquities and remembers our sins no more. Proclaim the good news with me:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI (Glory Be to the Father . . .)**

***SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE**

***GREETING OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS**

RE-GATHERING CHORUS "The Family of God"

Screen

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Led by Liturgist

God of living water, pour out your Spirit and nourish your Word within us, that in its time, that Word may bear much fruit. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Will Come to You"

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

Pastor

SERMON: "What We Really Want"

Pastor

***HYMN: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"**

Blue 326

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED

Blue 14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Liturgist

By the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives have borne much fruit. Let us now return thanks where it is due and offer the fruits of our labor back to the Lord. Let us receive the morning offering.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

***DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS**

Gracious God, it is our joy to return the gifts of our lives to you. May our offering this morning forever bring glory to your name, and may we continue to work tirelessly for the well-being of your whole creation. Amen.

***HYMN: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” Blue 84**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE “Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!”**

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Liturgy from Baron Mullis, Presbyterian Outlook; Ministry Matters;
CCLI licenses 20664520 and 20664537

THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY

The Liturgist today is Kay Nelson.

Greeter today was Patty Gillon.

Last Sunday's Attendance: 25; Online: 8

Last Sunday's Offering: \$ 545

Thank you for your faithfulness in service and in giving.



To make a onetime gift or to sign up for our online giving program, scan this QR code with your mobile device. All donations are processed through the Presbyterian Foundation and VANCO Giving Services is secure and protected.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

TODAY: Worship at 10 am

MONDAY: Prayer, Praise, and Study, Parish House, 1 and 6:30 pm

TUESDAY: Food & Fellowship from 11 am – 1 pm

WEDNESDAY: Liturgy & Lunch at Rehoboth Presbyterian

THURSDAY: Food Bank at FMC

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am; Palm Sunday

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

March 20- Ariana Berish	March 26- Susan Badzik
March 21- Joanne Weightman	March 28- Brenda Kennedy
March 22- Jeff Bevan	Lisa Conger
Brad Orr	Maren Metikosh
March 23- Ellis Merklin	March 30- Jacob Conger
March 24- Kelsey Roskovich	
Joshua Conger	

Next Week's Readings

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

Holy Week/Easter Activities

Palm Sunday—Morning worship with Palms

Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm—A service of song, scripture, prayer, and contemplation, with communion. *Elders are needed to assist with removing the paraments, etc., at the end of the service and for communion.*

Good Friday, Seven Last Words of Jesus, 12-3 pm at the First United Methodist Church of Belle Vernon.

Sunrise Service, 7:30 am—Our traditional sunrise service on Easter morning. This is being organized and planned by Bobbi Jo Huebner. This brief, casual service will be held in the fellowship hall.

Easter Continental Breakfast, following our sunrise service—All are invited to join us for a continental breakfast and other goodies in the fellowship hall.

Easter Worship, 9:55 am—Resurrection Celebration at its best! Come and celebrate our Risen Lord!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALM CROSSES—If you are willing to learn how to make palm crosses for next Sunday, please contact Pastor Mary Kay. Thank you for your help.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER, AND PRAISE—

Each Monday in Lent, the living room of the Parish House will be open for a time of reflection/study of what we have read, a time for praise and worship, and a time of guided prayer at 1 pm and 6:30 pm. The sessions will be available on Zoom, as well, for those who cannot attend in person.

Zoom: Call 1 929 205 6099 (phone) or log in on the Zoom app on your computer, phone, or tablet: Meeting ID: 818 3672 6212, Passcode: 123456

LITURGY AND LUNCH SCHEULE: Join us for a brief service and lunch at Rehoboth Presbyterian, 442 Rehoboth Road, at 12 pm this Wednesday, March 20th, for our last Lenten gathering. The church will serve a soup and bread lunch (with dessert) after the service.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us each Sunday morning at 9 am for a time of study and fellowship. We will be studying the Engage Discipleship curriculum.

APOLOGETICS LECTURE/DISCUSSION GROUP at Harmony Presbyterian Church beginning April 4th at 7 pm. This is a 24-session study and discussion group.

PRAYER LIST: Please take a look at the prayer list, many of the names have been on there for a few years. Please let the office know if we can take any names off if prayer is no longer needed.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers.

Please call the office with prayer needs, updates, and questions
or e-mail the church at office@fpresbv.org.

Anita † Lisa Aten † Kaiden Bane † Dolores Beatty † Bill Behrens
† Joann Bellora † Mary Lou Berish † Bob & Carol Berish † Carl
Boone † Frank Britton † Cameron Burnardza † Joe Burnsworth †
Colin † Sally Callaway † Sally Campbell † Carol Carcella † Milana
(Berish) Cerniga † Chloe Chachaula † Rev. Ian Chikoti † Nancy Craig
† Glenn Crownover † Tena Crutcher † Sue Currie † Rich & Kathy
Davies † Carol Driver † Sandy Elder † MaryAnn Falk † Norm Floyd †
Howard Forsyth † Janis Garofalo † Louise Gerber † Gillingham twin
preemies † Jim Gross † Glenn Hart † Brittany Heckathorn † Wayne
Helster † Frieda Hilman † Patti Huyck † Diane Johnston † Zoey
Johnson † Janet † Donna Kearns † Irene Leyda † Mike Lemley †
Lisa † Gordon Lucas † Ronnie Lynn † Laura Martin † J.T. Mateka †
Taylor McGee † Bruce Merritt † Dean Migliori † Phil Morrow †
Lynette Murray † Betsy Neel † Jim Palfrey † Scott Palfrey † Marge
Pawlaski † Kim Pierce † David Plasman † Helen Pulgino † Kaylee
Rabon † Lucille Rapchak † Dennis Raymer † Alina Shaw † Linda
Shuler † Chris Sicora † Rose Smarachek † Toi Smith † Walter Smith
† Gianna Smoyer † Candy Sokol † Lewis Stiltner † Ginger Thorp †
Jerry Tregembo † Shirl Walsh † Sandy Walters † Joseph Waywood †
Edna Weaver

**Pray for the safety and protection of First Responders
(police, fire, EMTs), Military Personnel, Medical Personnel,
Caregivers who deplete themselves caring for others,
those affected by senseless violence and war,
and those affected by natural disasters.**

*(If you have a prayer concern or to update the list, please call the office at
724-929-7616 or fill out a prayer card and place in the offering plate)*

SERMON NOTES

“What We Really Want”

Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33

1. We Want to See Jesus

The Magi's visit to see Jesus led to the _____ of _____ in Bethlehem.

When the Greeks come to see Jesus, it sets off the _____ to Jesus' _____ for the _____, including Gentiles.

Everyone came to see Jesus, but no one came to see a _____.

2. The Lesson of the Seed

Nothing can come of a seed or a bulb that isn't _____, that doesn't, for a time, “_____” or be sacrificed.

Contrasts: Two words translated to “life”

Those who **love** their **life** will lose it: The word translated “life” here is generally translated as _____, denoting personalities, achievements, and experiences, _____ values.

Those who **hate** their **life** will keep it eternally: Usually _____ with “eternal” and relates to the _____ we experience when we lay all the other down.

What does “hate my life” mean? A hyperbolic or exaggerated statement that means to _____ the normal things of this life _____, making _____ Christ the Master of one’s life.

3. Judgment and Redemption

Jesus’ listeners understood that being _____ related to the cross, to make the ultimate _____.

“Losing one’s life for the gospel is not a call for meaningless _____ or abuse. Rather, it is a reminder to “ _____.”

Gaining God’s forgiveness is not a matter of following _____ or loathsome regulations. It is _____ and _____ God.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Belle Vernon

501 Fayette Avenue, Rostraver Twp., PA 15012

Church Offices: 511 Fayette Avenue

Office Hours: M - F: 9:00 to 1:00

Church Phone: 724- 929-7616

Fax and Fellowship Hall Phone: 724-929-0209

Pastor's Cell Phone: 724-243-2871

Web: www.fpresbv.org **e-mail:** office@fpresbv.org

Pastor:	Mary Kay Glunt	243-2871
Clerk of Session:	Sharon Zunic	929-4463
Church Secretary:	Natalie Brewer	929-7616
Organist:	Joe Balogh	379-0149
Chairman of Deacons:	Susan Aten	929-6406
Head Usher:	Dave Neel	412-337-6365
Custodian:	Patty Gillon	929-7616
H. O. A:	Linda Aten	929-6406

E L D E R S

Class of 2024

Lori Lamberski
Carol Tragesser
David Burdis
Linda Aten

Class of 2025

Fred Exley
Doug Cole
Jack Backo

Class of 2026

John Conger
Sharon Zunic

D E A C O N S

Class of 2024

Jessica Phillabaum
Dave Neel
Kay Conger
Brenda Kennedy

Class of 2025

Susan Aten
June Exley
Barb Moskala

Class of 2026

Patty Gillon
Eileen Kunca

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service, and witness.

As a Christ-centered church empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek God's plan for each of us and all of us. We welcome everyone to journey with us as we strive to grow in love, faith, trust, and discipleship.

(Adopted October 10, 1998; revised February 2, 2013)