

# First



SUNDAY

IN LENT



# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

10:50 a.m.

## ✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

**Welcome**

*Rev. Bill Pollack*

**Prelude**

*Winchester Bells*

### My Faith Looks Up To Thee

arr. Barbara Kinyon

## † Call to Worship

*Jimmy Hall*

Leader: O God, be not far from us,

**People: For we are Your children.**

Leader: O God, help us to believe,

**People: For in Christ, we would live abundantly.**

Leader: O God, we search for You and would worship You,

**People: For in you we live and move and have our being.**

**All: O God, lead us into Life. Amen.**

## † Hymn of Praise

#35

### Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;

join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!

Let the amen sound from His people again;  
gladly for aye we adore Him.

## † Call to Confession

## † Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide  
and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name,**

**what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image and be whole through Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.**

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

#182 (1)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon My breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad.

✠ **We Listen to God's Word** ✠

**Children's Message**

**Anthem**

*Chancel Choir*

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley - American Spiritual

Arr. H H Hopson

Jesus walked this lonesome valley; He had to walk it by Himself;  
Oh, nobody else could walk it for Him, He had to walk it by  
Himself. We must walk this lonesome valley, we have to walk it  
by ourselves; Oh, nobody else can walk it for us, we have to walk  
it by ourselves. Jesus bore the cross of sorrow, He had to bear it  
by Himself; Oh, nobody else could bear it for Him, He had to bear  
it by Himself. We must take our cross and follow; yes, we must  
follow by ourselves; Oh, nobody else can follow for us, we have  
to follow by ourselves.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**The Epistle Lesson:** Acts 3:1–10 (NRSV)

*Carli Weston*

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>2</sup> And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter

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and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. <sup>4</sup> Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup> Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup> All the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with wonder and astonishment at what had happened to him.

L: The Word of the Lord. P: **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 145**

#42

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure

Your faithfulness, O Lord, is sure and all Your words,  
Your gracious deeds; You gently lift all burden souls  
and well provide for all our needs.

The eyes of all are fixed on You;  
by You their wants are all supplied;  
Your open hand is bountiful, and every soul is satisfied.

Lord, You are just in all Your ways, and kind in everything you do;  
Forever near You stand to hear  
and help all those who call on You.

My mouth shall speak Your praise, O Lord;  
My soul shall bless Your holy name;  
Let all things living join the song of praise,  
from age to age the same.

† **The Gospel Lesson:** Mark 9:14–29 (NRSV)

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them and some scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> When the whole crowd saw Him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet Him. <sup>16</sup> He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" <sup>17</sup> Someone from the crowd

answered him, "Teacher, I brought You my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak, <sup>18</sup> and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid, and I asked Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so." <sup>19</sup> He answered them, "You faithless generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me." <sup>20</sup> And they brought the boy to Him. When the spirit saw Him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> Jesus asked the father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. <sup>22</sup> It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if You are able to do anything, help us! Have compassion on us!" <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you are able! All things can be done for the one who believes." <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!" <sup>26</sup> After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. <sup>28</sup> When He had entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" <sup>29</sup> He said to them, "This kind can come out only through prayer."

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ!     P: **Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

*Rev. Bill Pollack*

***The Journey to Wholeness***

✠ **We Respond to God's Word** ✠

† **Hymn of Response**

#181

Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit

"Silence, frenzied, unclean spirit!" cried God's healing Holy One.

"Cease your ranting! Flesh can't bear it;

Flee as night before the sun."

At Christ's voice the demon trembled,

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from its victim madly rushed,  
while the crowd that was assembled stood in wonder,  
stunned and hushed.

Lord, the demons still are thriving in the gray cells of the mind:  
tyrant voices, shrill and driving,  
twisted thoughts that grip and bind,  
doubts that stir the heart to panic, fears distorting reason's sight,  
guilt that makes our loving frantic,  
dreams that cloud the soul with fright.

Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit in our mind and in our heart.  
Speak Your word that when we hear it,  
all our demons shall depart.

Clear our thought and calm our feeling;  
still the fractured, warring soul.

By the power of Your healing make us faithful, true, and whole.

† **Affirmation of Faith**

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Offering Acknowledgement** *Special Offering: Organ Repair Fund*

† **Doxology**

#711 (3)

Lord of All Good

Father, whose bounty all creation shows;  
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;  
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:  
to You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

† **Prayer of Dedication**

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

† **Hymn of Sending**

#792

There is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. [Refrain]

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
and if you lack for knowledge, He'll not refuse to lend. [Refrain]

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." [Refrain]

**Postlude**

Ring Joyfully

Barbara Kinyon

† **Charge & Benediction**

† *Standing if you are able.*

**SERVING TODAY**

Head Usher: *Jan Holbrook*

Liturgist: *Jimmy Hall*

**LAST WEEK'S RECAP**

Attendance: 89

Backpack Ministry: \$140.00

Pastor's Discretionary: \$200.00

General Offering: \$2,847.00

Online Offering: \$1,123.45

**Total Offering: \$4,310.45**

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### ► Sunday, March 9

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m.  
Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.  
Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.  
Genesis Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.

### ► Monday, March 10

Ministry Teams Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

### ► Wednesday, March 12

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans

### **Lenten Worship/Noon, First United Methodist Church**

Bells Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

### ► Thursday, March 13

Men's Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.  
Horizons Bible Study, 5:15 p.m.



You are welcome to join the *Sunday Morning Study* at 9:28 a.m. for a new Bible study on Galatians, led by John Ferguson.

### Community Lenten Services

The AAMA is sponsoring Community Lent Midweek Worship on Wednesdays during Lent. Each service begins at **noon** with lunch at **12:30 p.m.**

March 12—*First United Methodist Church*  
**March 19—*First Presbyterian Church***  
March 26—*Cornerstone Methodist Church*  
April 2—*Holy Family Catholic Church*  
April 9—*First Christian Church*

An offering will be received at each service in support of the Community Kitchen, Shelter of Hope, and CARES.



## **Flood Relief Items Needed:**

Once again, our Presbytery has experienced a natural disaster. This latest event hit across Kentucky but much of the worst damage was in the bounds of our Presbytery. We here at FPC are collecting the following items:

- A mold or mildew preventer like Shockwave or Microbium
- Scouring pads
- Sponges
- Scrub brush
- Reusable, lightweight multipurpose cleaning towels
- Liquid dish soap
- Heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves
- 20-28 heavy-duty or 30-45 gallon trash bags
- Brooms
- Heavy dust pans
- Push brooms
- Long handled Floor Scrubber/ Brush
- Heavy Shovels (not rounded spades)
- Scoop Shovels
- Box or high velocity fans
- Heavy duty work gloves
- Monetary gifts

## **Clothing Swap**

Ladies, you don't want to miss the fun on **Saturday, March 29 beginning at 1 p.m.** Barb Payne does an excellent job organizing this fun event. **Please bring in your donated items as soon as possible.** You may put them downstairs under the coat rack. If you need anything picked up or have questions, please contact Barb (606.922.6617).

## **One Great Hour of Sharing**



Each gift to *One Great Hour of Sharing* supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the

Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We will receive this offering **March 9 through April 20.** Offering envelopes are available in the pew racks. Thank you for your kind response.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Week ending March 6, 2025

Bob Poore

Greg Sanders (Pastor Bill's brother-in-law)

Mary Vanderhoof (John Ferguson's mother)

### Week ending February 27, 2025

Craig Ellsworth (Ann Wiseman)

Flood Relief Efforts

Shirley O'Neal (Nanette)

Randy Smith (Chris & Barb Payne's friend)

Family of Jill Sparks (Nanette)

### Week ending February 20, 2025

Sydney Anderson (Kathleen Filkins)

Family of Mikey Gamble (Kris Adkins)

Family of Iris White (Ish & Lisa Stevens' aunt)

***Prayer requests will rotate off after three weeks. If you have an ongoing concern, please contact the church office.***

**Ongoing:** Pastor Bill; Bill Gesling; Charlie Holbrook; Dr. Matthew Lewis; Kenny McGill; Derek Payne; Nancy Payne; Bonnie Pettijohn; Tim Shephard; Kim Whitman; Jan Winans; Ann Wiseman

**Kingsbrook Care Center:** Barry Barbour

**The Lantern:** Carolyn Graber

**Military:** Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, son of Kris Adkins); Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Kim & Mike Whitman); Greg Weston (Kuwait); Major Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

# Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins  
 colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer  
 confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns  
 cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y  
 C L E U X B M T H B U C W B  
 N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y  
 A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B  
 N G N L I S N L A I N E D X  
 E W M P R V R D H B N R D F  
 P S O G O L G O T H A B S C  
 D L N R O C O N F E S S I K  
 O T H T C P E K W U O U N D  
 M N S H N P W E D R H F S K  
 U N F O E T K Y C S G F O E  
 H E C R E V L I S W Q E C M  
 H V H N C X S O C C J R L O  
 F Q E S U D S H C A A Y M C  
 C R U C I F I X I O N S R V

## STAFF

Minister: *Rev. William Pollack*  
Choirmaster/Organist: *Max Jackson*  
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*  
Facilities Manager: *Glen Thomas*  
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

## SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*  
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*  
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2025	2026	2027
<i>Kelly Hanni</i>	<i>Mitch Hall*</i>	<i>Jimmy Hall</i>
<i>Kim Whitman</i>	<i>Jan Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee McCloud *</i>
<i>Geri Willis</i>	<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>	<i>J.T. Norris *</i>
	*2nd term of service	

## MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>Glen Thomas</i>	Membership: <i>Kim Whitman</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Geri Willis</i>
Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i>	Personnel: <i>Janet Holbrook</i>
Finance: <i>Trish Hall</i>	Worship: <i>Ryan Whitman</i>

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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