

**First Presbyterian Church
Founded 1835
Corner of Jefferson and Clinton Streets
Marianna, Florida
(850) 526-2430
website: www.firstpresmarianna.org
E-Mail: firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net**



*Second
Sunday in Lent*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010 at 11:00 A.M.
A CELEBRATION OF OUR FREEDOM TO CHOOSE
TO WHOM WE PLEDGE OUR ALLEGIANCE**

THE CHURCH GATHERS . .

WORDS FOR REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

*The ability – and the responsibility -- to choose is part of what makes us human.
The way we make our choices, and the values we use in our decisions reflect the
influence of our faith in guiding us.*

PRELUDE *With the first notes of the organ please silently prepare yourself for worship.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND SHARING OF COMMUNITY LIFE

INTROIT

“We Do Adore Thee, O Christ”
Theodore Dubois from “The Seven Last Words of Christ”

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come, let us glorify and exalt Jesus Christ who died on the cross for us,

Unison: and let us adore our crucified, risen, and exalted Lord.

Leader: Come, let us journey through Lent with Jesus to Jerusalem,

**Unison: and let us see again the light and the love of God Jesus came to
bring to us.**

Leader: Come, let us journey through Lent with Jesus to Jerusalem,

**Unison: and let us see in him that perfect love of God which casts out all
fear.**

Leader: Come, let us journey through Lent with Jesus to Jerusalem,

**Unison: and let us see in him the light God desires to bring to each of our
lives.**

Leader: Come, let us journey through Lent with Jesus to Jerusalem,

**Unison: and let us remember how he points us to the God who has been
our help in ages past,**

Leader: and who is our hope for years to come.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE AND ASSURANCE based on Psalm 90 No. 210 *St. Anne*** **“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”**

CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

based on Philippians 3:18-20

Leader: Paul reminds us that even as we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem

Unison: to witness his death upon the cross for each one of us

Leader: it is still possible for us to live as enemies of that cross,
Unison: as we choose to set our minds on earthly things,
 Leader: rather than on the things of heaven,
Unison: where our true citizenship belongs as the followers of Jesus.
 Leader: Let us seek God's forgiveness for where we have failed to appreciate the light and love God has shown us in Jesus as we pray together,
 Unison: **You have given us, O God, the great gift of freedom, yet we have not always used that freedom to worship you and to serve you as you desire. We have allowed other people, rather than yourself to cast the vision of how we should live our lives. We have imitated those who are lesser than yourself, and qualities and values that are less than those of your ways revealed in Jesus Christ your Son. We have settled so often for what is easiest and most comfortable, than for what is right for us, and just and compassionate for other people. Remind us again of who we are as your beloved children, and as citizens of your heavenly kingdom revealed most clearly in Jesus Christ your Son, in whose name we pray.**

PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION IN SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER REQUEST FOR GOD'S FORGIVENESS FOR LENT

based on Psalm 51

(sung to the tune Martyrdom, found at No.78 in The Presbyterian Hymnal)

**Have mercy, God, upon my life, and make me clean within;
 Pour out your ever faithful love, and wash away my sin.**

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

based on Psalm 27

Leader: Remember your baptism! Remember who you are!
Unison: We are the beloved children of God, and citizens of heaven.
 Leader: We are the beloved children of the God who is our light and our salvation,
Unison: so we have no reason to be afraid.
 Leader: We are the beloved children of the God who is the stronghold of our lives,
Unison: so we have no reason to be afraid.
 Leader: We are the beloved children of God who in Jesus Christ says to us, "Your sins are forgiven."
Unison: so we have no reason to be afraid.

***THE SUNG RESPONSE OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING FOR LENT**

Martyrdom

**Create in me a faithful heart, a spirit new and right.
Sustain me with your saving love, and keep me close to you.**

**Then I will praise you with my heart, my mind, my soul, my voice.
You save the least and seek the lost; let all the world rejoice.**

TO HEAR AND REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD . . .

A TIME FOR OUR CHILDREN

Suzanne Owens

(Children age 5 and under are excused to go downstairs after our Children's Time)

JESUS RESPONDS TO THREATS TO HIS LIFE

Luke 13:31-35

The Response: Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

"The Lord Is My Light"

Words from Psalm 27

Music by Frances Allitsen, arranged by Vaughn E. Wright

PAUL REMINDS US OF OUR TRUE CITIZENSHIP

Philippians 3:17-4:1

The Response: Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

**"THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE TO WHOM
WE WILL PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE"**

Dr. Christopher

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD . . .

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*based on Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotions,
Upper Room Books, for February 28, 2010*

We are citizens of heaven. The church of Jesus Christ is unlike any nation or earthly association of people. It is not bound together by bonds of political affiliation or biological kinship. Rather, the church is a gathering of people called out from every nation and family across the globe, bound together by their faith and allegiance to Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are citizens of a realm that has not land or capital city to call its own. The church's physical

place and space is wherever Christians gather in their Lord's name, and pray that through Jesus Christ, the Ruler of all may become their vision and the Lord of their hearts.

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT No. 339

Slane

“Be Thou My Vision”

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

* THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE FOR LENT No. 98 (stanza 3) *Passion Chorale*

What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Presbyterian Hymnal, page 16 traditional, using 'debts' and 'debtors')

TO GO OUT AND SERVE . . .

*HYMN OF THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD No. 546 *St. Clement*

“The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is ended

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION FOR LENT

Leader: On this second Sunday in Lent, let us charge one another as we go forth to continue our journeys of Lent.

Unison: Go now, as a beloved child of God. Remember who you are!

Leader: Choose well the road you take, and the decisions you make.

Unison: Remember the One to whom you have pledged your allegiance.

Leader: Be guided by the One who has promised to give you strength,

Unison: and to be with you every step of your journey,

Leader: and to be your good companion along the way,

Unison: this day and every day.

*** THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE FOR LENT No. 538** *(stanza one only)*
Sicilian Mariners

**Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace:
Let us each Thy love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

***POSTLUDE**

***All who can do so comfortably will stand**

Pastor: Huw Christopher

Director of Music: Lawrence R. Nelson

Elder of the month: Bud Wierman

Organist: Stanley Littleton

Administrative Assistant: Valerie Marlow

Custodian: Ron Jones

Nursery Assistants: Mary Skipper and Branham Skipper

The hymn, **“Have Mercy, God,”** is based on Psalm 51, the traditional psalm for Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The hymn was commissioned and written in 2009 by David Gambrell, the Associate for Worship at the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), for use on Ash Wednesday and during Lent 2010.

The opening words for reflection and the closing charge and benediction are based on the online Lenten devotionals found at www.d365.org/Journey to the Cross, which provides daily online devotionals sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and some other denominations in this country.

To Our Guests – Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Marianna. We are glad to have you worship with us today, and invite you to join us each Sunday, as we worship and study God’s word. If you would like more information concerning our church, you may fill out one of the Welcome cards in the pews, talk to the ushers or the pastor, or call the church office.

Nursery care is available for children Kindergarten and below during our Worship Service each Sunday morning. Children may be taken to the nursery before the service begins, or after the Time with Our Children

The **flowers** in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by Betty Pettis in memory of Johnny Pettis and Andria Pettis Dalafave.

Our Prayer Calendar: Toni Nowell, Edith Griffith, Billy Sherrel, Alyne Pitman, Harold Pumphrey (son of Louise Pumphrey) , Irby Owens (father of Terry Owens), Barbara Black (requested by Nancy McMullin), Christine Stubbs (requested by Susie Stevens),

Jesse Olive (requested by Bud and Mary Wierman), Jung Guk Hyun (grandfather of Jae Jung), Scott Harmon (Ed Harmon's brother), Jack McGee (requested by Ed and Janie Harmon), Florry Lloyd (requested by Jeff Allen), Carlton-Jane Beck (granddaughter and niece of Alyne & Bob Pitman).

Everyone is invited to share in the time of **Prayer and Quiet Reflection** tonight at 5 p.m. in the parlor. The reflections will center on "being citizens of heaven," and will be based on Philippians 3:17-4:1.

All ladies are invited to share in one of the **Circle Meetings** tomorrow, Monday, March 1
Circle 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the church parlor
Circle 2 at 4 p.m. the fellowship hall
The date and time of the Good News Women's Circle will be announced later.

Our **Lenten Luncheon** will be held on Tuesday from 12 noon until 12:50 p.m. with the Good News Women's Circle in charge of the soup, sandwich and dessert luncheon. Our study this week, based on our theme for this year of "Reflections of the Journey that Jesus Chose," will be "What Does the Cross of Jesus Mean to You? – Reflecting on the Doctrine of the Atonement," based on Luke 13:31-35.

On Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall there will be an Introductory Meeting, beginning with supper, for all young people who are interested in participating in our **Confirmation Class** this year. This introductory meeting is intended for the young people, their parents, any person he or she has chosen to be an Elder Partner, and the current members of our Church Session.

Next Sunday: March 7:

Breakfast will be served by our Evangelism and Fellowship Committee in the fellowship hall from 9 a.m. until 9:30 a.m.

Everyone is invited to share in **Sunday School** with us each Sunday. In addition to classes for our children and youth, we have two Adult Classes. Next Sunday the adults in the parlor will be studying "Mission to the Community" based on Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-9. Upstairs in Room 4 the adult class will be studying the text to be used in our Worship Service: Luke 13:1-9.

The theme of our **Worship Service** will be, "The Freedom to Choose to Accept Responsibility," based on Luke 13:1-9. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at this service. If you are not able to attend our worship services on a regular basis, and would like to receive communion at home following the service next Sunday, please call the church office by Friday, March 5 so that arrangements may be made.

Copies of *Our Daily Bread* devotionals for March, April and May and **devotions and reflections for Lent** are available on the table in the narthex, on the table the hallway outside the fellowship hall, and from the church office during the week.

Appreciation is extended to the members of our Evangelism and Fellowship Committee for the recent improvements to **our church kitchen**, and to Gina Stuart for allowing memorials for her husband, Winston Stuart, to be used for these improvements.

In our pew racks there are **white envelopes** for general offerings; **gold ones** for gifts to the 1835 Endowment Fund; and **green ones** for the Anniversary Birthday Challenge. There is a listing on the table in the hallway outside the fellowship hall of those who have been honored recently through our Anniversary Birthday Challenge.

This week in the life of the church . . .

Today	Prayer and Quiet Reflection at 5 p.m. in the parlor.
Monday	Ladies Exercise Class 9:00 Circle 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the parlor Circle 2 at 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall Good News Women's Circle to be announced
Tuesday	Reading of Church History in the parlor from 11 – 11:50 a.m. Lenten Luncheon 12 noon – 12:50 p.m. Reading of Church History in the parlor from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Evangelism and Fellowship meets at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.
Wednesday	Food pantry is open from 9:00 - 11:00, the volunteers are Mary Ann Gibbs, Marsha Rodgers and Jeff Allen. Choir Practice at 5:15 p.m. JuBELLees practice at 6 p.m. Introductory Meeting for Confirmation Class at 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group at 7 p.m.
Friday	Ladies Exercise Class 9 a.m. Beginning Bells at 10 a.m.in Room 1 Upstairs.
Sunday (7th)	Breakfast in the fellowship hall from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. A Celebration of Our God Given Freedom to Choose to Accept Responsibility and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 11 a.m.

Have you remembered the Anniversary Birthday Challenge?