

**First Presbyterian Church  
Founded 1835  
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**THIRD**  
*Sunday  
in Lent*



**SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010 at 11:00 A.M.  
A CELEBRATION OF OUR FREEDOM TO CHOOSE  
TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY**

## **THE CHURCH GATHERS . .**

### **WORDS FOR REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD 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 rejoice in all of God’s blessings to us in the life, death  
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

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

**Unison: and let us celebrate the streams of mercy he has brought to this  
world.**

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

**Unison: and let us give thanks for the grace of God seen in his words and  
in his deeds.**

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

**Unison: and let us commit ourselves again to walking more closely with  
him,**

Leader: as we celebrate the love of God, Jesus has brought to each one of us.

### **\* HYMN OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING No. 356**

*Nettleton*

**“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *based on Isaiah 55*

Leader: Listen carefully to me, says the Lord:

**Unison: eat what is good, and delight yourself in rich food.**

Leader: Incline your ear and come to me;

**Unison:** listen to me so you may live.

Leader: Despite such gracious invitations we are prone to wander,

**Unison:** and prone to leave the God we love.

Leader: Yet God in mercy and grace still loves us. In the assurance of that mercy and grace let us seek God's forgiveness for our wanderings as we pray together,

Unison: **You have given us, O God, the great gift of freedom, and frequently we use that freedom to wander away from you rather than towards you, and to reject your will rather than to do it. Exercising our freedom we come to you, and open ourselves to a loving relationship with you. We come confessing our need for your strength for where we feel powerless to do your work and will. We come confessing our need of your presence when we feel alone, and unable to resist our temptations. We come confessing our need of your forgiveness for where we have wandered away from you, have failed to be your beloved children, and the faithful followers of Jesus Christ that we claim to be. Heal us, restore us, and empower us to face the challenges and opportunities that come to us as your beloved children, and as the followers of 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.**

**My guilt is heavy on my mind; I know what I have done:  
Against your justice I have sinned, against you, God, alone.**

### **THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*based on Psalm 63*

Leader: Remember your baptism! Remember who you are!

**Unison:** We are the beloved children of God, and followers of Jesus Christ.

Leader: We are the beloved children of the God, and followers of Jesus Christ,

**Unison:** to whom God continues to offer steadfast love.

Leader: We are the beloved children of the God, and followers of Jesus Christ,  
**Unison:** whom God satisfies with a rich feast of grace and mercy.  
Leader: We are the beloved children of God and followers of Jesus Christ,  
**Unison:** to whom God says, “Your sins are forgiven.”

**\*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 REMINDS US OF OUR NEED TO REPENT**

**Luke 13:1-9**

**The Response:** Leader: This is the Word of the Lord  
People: Thanks be to God!

**ANTHEM**

“Communion Hymn”  
Words by Thomas Aquinas, 1263  
Music by Gabriel Faure’, arranged by K. Lee Scott

**SERMON “THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY”**

**Dr. Christopher**

**TO RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD . .**

**\*HYMN OF ASSURANCE AND COMMITMENT No. 400**

*Somos Del Senor*

“When We Are Living”

**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR 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.**

**TO CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER . . .**

**\* INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**\* THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: As we gather at this table it is indeed right and our duty and delight to give you thanks . . . . .in Jesus Christ, we praise and adore you as we pray as he taught us..

**Unison: Our Father, who art in heaven....**

*(The Lord's Prayer, Presbyterian Hymnal, page 16 traditional, using debts and debtors)*

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE** *(Please hold the elements until all have been served.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION**

**TO GO OUT AND SERVE . . .**

**\* HYMN OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS No. 276**

*Faithfulness*

**"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

**\* THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION FOR LENT**

Leader: On this third 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 who promises you new mercies each and every morning.**

Leader: Be guided by the One who has promised to provide for your every need,

**Unison: to give you his own dear presence to cheer you and to guide you,**

Leader: who promises you strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow,

**Unison: pardon for your sin,**

Leader: and the gift of peace which the world cannot give you

**Unison: for this day and every day.**

**\* THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE FOR LENT No. 538**

*(stanza one and two)*

*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.**

**Thanks we give and adoration for Thy gospel's joyful sound:**

**May the fruit of Thy salvation in our hearts and lives abound.**

**Ever faithful, Ever faithful to Thy truth may we be found.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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

Pastor: Huw Christopher

Director of Music: Lawrence R. Nelson

Elder of the month: Don Hunter

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.

**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 Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper is not served to children in our nursery, so if they wish to receive they should remain in the service with their families this morning.

Everyone who seeks to love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ is invited to share in the **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** with us. According to the tradition of this congregation we will hold the bread and the cup in order that we might eat and drink together when we are invited to do so. You are encouraged to hold the bread with the napkin provided as you break off your piece.

The **flowers** in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by Albert & Kathy Milton in loving memory of Kathy's mother, Althea Stevens.

**Prayer Calendar:** Toni Nowell, 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 come and to read portions of **our church history** that is being written on Tuesday between 11 and 11:50 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. in the parlor.

Our **Lenten Luncheon** will be held on Tuesday from 12 noon until 12:50 p.m. with Circle 2 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 Do You Want To Hold Out of the Water? – Reflecting on Our Commitments as the Followers of Jesus Christ," based on Luke 13:1-9.

On Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at our **covered dish supper** the program will center on the One Great Hour of Sharing Easter Offering.

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 "A Community to Redeem" based on Jonah 3:10-4:5. Upstairs in Room 4 the adult class will be studying the text to be used in our Worship Service: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 and II Corinthians 5:16-21.

On Tuesday at 1 p.m. the **Presbytery of Florida** will meet at the First Presbyterian Church in Chipley to call Kevin Veldhuisen as the new Associate Executive Presbyter for Outdoor Ministry and Spiritual Development, and to examine him for Ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Mary Bevis

Schmidt will be representing our Session at this meeting, and Huw Christopher will be attending, following the Lenten Luncheon, as a minister member of the Presbytery.

Next Sunday at 2 a.m. clocks will be moved forward one hour for **Daylight Savings Time**. Please remember to adjust your clocks before going to bed on Saturday night.

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 . . .**

- Monday Ladies Exercise Class 9:00
- 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 – 2 p.m.  
Presbytery of Florida in Chipley at 1 p.m.  
Administration Committee at 5:15 p.m. in the church office.
- Wednesday Food pantry is open from 9:00 - 11:00, the volunteers are Hazel Nelson, Ron & Willie Mae Goold.  
Choir Practice at 5:15 p.m.  
JuBELLees practice at 6 p.m.  
Covered Dish Supper and One Great Hour of Sharing Program at 6:30 p.m.  
Junior High and Senior High Youth Groups at 7 p.m.
- Thursday Newsletter collated at 1 p.m.
- Friday Ladies Exercise Class 9 a.m.  
Beginning Bells at 10 a.m.in Room 1 Upstairs.
- Sunday (14th) Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Coffee and Juice in the fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.  
A Celebration of Our God Given Freedom to Choose How We View Other People at 11 a.m.  
Montreat Golden Opportunity at 12:15 p.m.

***Have you remembered the Anniversary Birthday Challenge?***