

**First Presbyterian Church  
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*Fifth*  
Sunday  
in Lent

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010 at 11:00 A.M.  
A CELEBRATION OF OUR FREEDOM TO CHOOSE  
WHAT IS PRECIOUS TO US**

## THE CHURCH GATHERS . .

### WORDS FOR REFLECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

*What can we do to make ourselves worthy of God's grace and love? The answer, of course, is that there is nothing we can do to earn these things. Be prepared now to be accepted into God's all-encompassing love, a complete and free gift given by God alone.*

**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 what was precious to him and, therefore, should be precious to us.**

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

**Unison: and let us open ourselves to the new way of looking at life that he came to bring to us.**

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

**Unison: and let us see again the wideness of God's mercy towards us, and towards all people.**

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

**Unison: and let us pray that our love may become more faithful.**

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

**Unison: and seek to his help to allow our lives to reflect thanksgiving for all of God's goodness to us in him.**

### \* HYMN OF PRAISE FOR GOD'S MERCY No. 298

*In Babilone*

**“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”**

### CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: In the assurance of the wideness of God's mercy, let us confess our sin,

**Unison: knowing that the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.**

Leader: In the assurance that the love of God is broader than our minds can ever imagine, let us confess our sin,

**Unison: knowing there is a kindness in God's justice.**

Leader: In the assurance that God comes to us in Jesus Christ in mercy and in love, let us confess our sin together

**Unison: Gracious God, we have been slow to leave our past thoughts and actions behind, and to move forward in faith and in trust. We have built many roadblocks along our journey that we need your help to remove. There are faults in ourselves, and in other people, that we have been slow to forgive and to forget. There are relationships that have been broken that we have been reluctant to reach out to try to heal. We have clung on to old ways and old thoughts, to familiar customs and traditions, rather than being excited to claim the newness of life that you offer us in Jesus Christ. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to love, and to experience anew the wideness of your mercy towards us, and towards all people.**

## **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**

Leader: Remember your baptism! Remember who you are!

**Unison: Celebrate the new things God is wanting to do in your life.**

Leader: Leave the past behind,

**Unison: move into the new life God is offering to you.**

Leader: Trust in God's word to you in Jesus Christ,

**Unison: and know that your sins are forgiven.**

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

*Martyrdom*

**Create in me a faithful heart, a spirit right and new.  
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)*

**PRESENTATION OF THE FOOD PANTRY OFFERING FOR MARCH**

**MARY ANOINTS THE FEET OF JESUS**

**John 12:1-8**

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

**ANTHEM**

**"My Song Is Love Unknown"**

**Words by Samuel Crossman**

**Music by John Ireland, arranged by James Kirkby**

**PAUL REFLECTS ON WHAT IS PRECIOUS TO HIM BECAUSE OF JESUS  
CHRIST**

**Philippians 3:4b-14**

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

**SERMON "THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE WHAT IS PRECIOUS TO US"**

**Dr. Christopher**

**TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD . . .**

**\*HYMN OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US based on Psalm 23 No. 171**

*St. Columba*

**"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"**

**INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONFIRMATION CLASS  
AND THEIR ELDER PARTNERS.**

**THE FELLOWSHIP OF SILENT PRAYER**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION

### THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

#### THE OFFERTORY

Played by the JuBELLees

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Based on the Hymn Tune “Nicaea”

By Dan R. Edwards

#### \* 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 . . .

#### \* PRAYER HYMN FOR OUR LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST No. 359

“More Love to Thee, O Christ” *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

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

Leader: On this fifth 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: May you be filled with the knowledge of God's will, being spiritually wise and understanding.**

Leader: May you live a life worthy of your calling, bearing fruit by good works.

**Unison: May God give you strength as you give joyful thanks to God,**

Leader: who includes you among God's beloved children

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

#### \* THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE FOR LENT No. 538 *Sicilian Mariners*

*(stanza one and two only)*

**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

Elder of the month: Don Hunter

Administrative Assistant: Valerie Marlow

Nursery Assistants: Mary Skipper and Branham Skipper

Director of Music: Lawrence R. Nelson

Organist: Stanley Littleton

Custodian: Ron Jones

The hymn, "**Have Mercy, God,**" is based on Psalm 51, 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](http://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 Ron and Willie Mae Goold in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Goold and Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Maloy.

**Our Prayer Calendar:** Ilene Culpepper, 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), Jung Guk Hyun (grandfather of Jae Jung), Jack McGee (requested by Ed and Janie Harmon), Florry Lloyd (requested by Jeff Allen), Oscar & Jessie Olive (requested by Bud & Mary Wierman), the family of the late Frank Harris, Sr., and the family of the late Henry B. Burke, Jr.

**Our Food Pantry Offering for March** will be received this morning. During the month of February we served 271 families comprising 624 individuals through our food pantry.

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 1 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 Is Precious in God’s Sight and in Our Sight? -- Reflections on how we express our love for Jesus,” based on John 12:1-8.

Students who participate in the Presbyterian University Center at Florida State University in Tallahassee along with the Presbyterian Campus Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Bruce Chapman, will present a program on the ministry of the University Center at our **covered dish supper** on Wednesday. All those with March birthdays also will be recognized at this supper.

It is time to begin planning to attend a Summer Camp at our Presbytery Camp at Dogwood Acres, near Vernon, Florida, this summer. There are a variety of camps available for all ages from those entering Grade 2 through those entering Grade 12. Brochures are available from the table in the hallway outside the fellowship hall, and from the church office. Those signing up and paying at our Dogwood Acres Days at our covered dish supper this Wednesday will receive an extra \$5.00 off the early bird special. The early bird deadline is Monday, April 5. More information is available from Mary Bevis Schmidt, the chairperson of our Christian Education Committee, who also serves on the Committee for Dogwood Acres, at 557-3332 or [MaryBSchmidt@aol.com](mailto:MaryBSchmidt@aol.com).

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 “Acceptance in Community,” based on Ruth 2:5-12 and 3:9-11. Upstairs in Room 4 the adult class will be studying the texts to be used in our Worship Service: Luke 19:28-40 and Philippians 2:5-11.

Our celebration of **Palm/Passion Sunday** will be held next Sunday to mark the beginning of Holy Week. The Scripture Readings will be from Luke 19:28-40 and Philippians 2:5-11. The choir's anthem will be an arrangement of Isaac Watts' hymn, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

The sympathy of the church is extended to **Ed and Janie Harmon** in the death of Scott Harmon, Ed's younger brother on Sunday, March 14, 2010 in Dothan, Alabama.

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 p.m. - 2 p.m.
- Wednesday Food pantry is open from 9:00 - 11:00, the volunteers are Bud Wierman, Hazel Nelson, and Marianne Lonsinger.  
Choir Practice at 5:15 p.m.  
JuBELLees practice at 6 p.m.  
Covered Dish Supper and Program about the Presbyterian University Center at 6:30 p.m.  
Junior and Senior High Youth Group 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 (28th) Palm/Passion Sunday  
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 To Weep at 11 a.m.

*Have you remembered the Anniversary Birthday Challenge?*