

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR MAR. 23, 2025

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT 444 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive (vrs.1,2,&4) DETROIT

Gathering Around The Word

\*CALL TO WORSHIP from Isa. 55:1, 3, 6, 7; Matt. 5:6; Ps. 63:7

One: Everyone who thirsts:  
All: Come to the waters, seek the Lord,  
repent and return so that you may live.  
One: All who are hungry for righteousness:  
All: Come to the waters, seek the Lord,  
repent and return so that you may live.  
One: All who need the help of God:  
All: Come to the waters, seek the Lord,  
repent and return so that you may live.

\*HYMN 442 Just as I Am, without One Plea WOODWORTH

CALL TO CONFESSION from Isa. 55:6-7

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) from Isa. 55:1-2, 8; Luke 13:8  
Holy God,  
we confess that we have grown complacent  
in our response to you.  
You set before us a rich feast of blessing,  
but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy.  
You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world,  
but we indulge our own desires.  
Our ways are not your ways;  
our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts.  
Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives.  
Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire  
for a more fruitful life.  
Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are,  
in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be.  
We ask this in the name of our Savior,  
your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON from Isa. 55:3; 1 Cor. 10:3, 13  
One: God’s love is sure and steadfast, always providing a way out,  
a way through, a way back to God.  
All: Through the waters of baptism,  
we have died with Christ and are raised with him.  
With gratitude, in faith,  
we will walk the way of Christ.

\*PASSING THE PEACE  
We invite you to share the peace of Christ with others.  
\*RESPONSE 581 GLORIA PATRI  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.

Listening To the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF GOD’S WORD from Ps. 63:1-5

FIRST READING ISAIAH 55:1-9  
(The scripture readings can be found on the back of the bulletin)

ANTHEM 735 I Need Thee Every Hour NEED

SECOND READING LUKE 13:1-9

SERMON “They Had It Coming” Rev. David Holden

Responding to the Word

\*HYMN 649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound AMAZING GRACE

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Ionian Creed  
We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth,  
of male and female.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.

A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,  
he died alone and forsaken.  
He descended into the earth to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven,  
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,  
and His kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of all resurrection and of eternal life.  
Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SHARING OUR PRAYERS See prayer concerns list, back page

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (“debts”/”debtors”) page 35 in hymnal

GIVING BACK TO GOD’S KINGDOM  
(Give online @ bit.ly/FPCSomersetGive or scan the code on the yellow pew card)

OFFERTORY

\*THE DOXOLOGY 606  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God Sends Us Forth

\*HYMN 307 God of Grace and God of Glory CWM RHONDDA

\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION from Luke 13:7–8; Ps. 63:1

\*BLESSING

HYMN 444 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive (vs4) DETROIT

POSTLUDE

Visiting today? Welcome!

Please tell us about yourself! You can scan  
this QR code with your smartphone to fill  
out our online form, or fill out a pew card  
and drop it in the offering plate.



This Week

TODAY! @ 12:00pm - Chapel Dedication & Lunch  
Wed., Mar. 26 @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice  
Thur., Mar. 27 @ 5:00pm - Session Meeting  
Thur., Mar. 27 @ 7:00pm - ONLINE: Lenten Study

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....Marshall Judy  
Ushers.....Wanda Mabry & Carol Wade  
Audio.....Paul Guffey  
Video.....Sue Guffey  
Coffee Plus.....Linda Cook & Sandra Harris

\*for portions marked with an asterisk, you’re invited to rise in body or spirit

First Reading—Isaiah 55:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Second Reading—Luke 13:1-9

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’”



Prayers for Comfort, Concern, and Healing

Aaron Ramsey; Tim Noel; Leslie Phillips' parents, J.R & Karen Goff; Don Haney; Rebecca Davis; Pat Carpenter; David & Brenda Bryant; Jeff & Kathy Bishop's daughter, Ashley Kerr; Ed & Joyce Mick; Jennifer Williams; Bill House; Leslie Phillips

Current Giving				
	Rec'd month of Feb.	Needed Monthly	Received YTD	Needed YTD
Offering	\$18,018	\$16,522	\$31,182	\$33,044

Blessing Box Attendant

This Week.....Cindy Fountain  
Next Week.....Nina Wilhelm

Assisting In Worship Today

Ministers.....Every Member  
Liturgist.....Brenda Wesley  
Ushers.....Laura Kamperman & J.B. Pitman  
Audio.....Paul Guffey  
Video.....Sue Guffey  
Coffee Plus.....Paula Burlew  
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby  
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald  
Pastor.....Rev. David Holden

Deacons:

Linda Cook      Rebecca Davis      Sue Guffey  
Don Haney      Nancy Holland      Marshall Judy      Marci Randall

Elders:

Class of 2025      Class of 2026      Class of 2027  
Charles Leveridge      Sharon Mandt      Jo Salmon      Mark Dikeman  
Perry Waller      Laura Wright

First Presbyterian Church

March 23rd, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent



Naveedanjumkhan. Fig tree, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56836> [retrieved March 20, 2025]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fig\\_Tree\\_with\\_Figs\\_coming\\_out\\_of\\_the\\_trunk.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fig_Tree_with_Figs_coming_out_of_the_trunk.jpg).

People of God, Welcome Home!

May Christ’s peace and presence fill your heart as you worship this day, and may you go forth with the light and love of God shining within you.

We welcome you to worship, and ask that any electronic devices be placed on silent so that all may hear what God has to say.