

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR MARCH 10, 2024

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT 377 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (vrs1) HOUSTON

Gathering Around The Word

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from John 12:26*

One: From water to wilderness:

All: **God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.**

One: On stone and in hearts:

All: **God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.**

One: From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

All: **God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.**

One: We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

All: **for where he is, we would be also.**

*HYMN 634 *To God Be the Glory* TO GOD BE THE GLORY

CALL TO CONFESSION *from John 3:19*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*) *from Num. 21:4-6*

Merciful God,
we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy
of our complaints.
We grumble about the evils in our world,
even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit.
We fret about the scarcity of resources
while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor.
We protest the problems of our world,
but we do not actively work to address them.
Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace.
Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways
that we me know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *from John 3:17*

One: Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn
the world, but in order that the world might be saved through
him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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

*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 John 3:21*

FIRST READING NUMBERS 21:4-9

(The scripture readings can be found on the side panel of the bulletin)

ANTHEM 749 *Come! Live in the Light!* WE ARE CALLED

SECOND READING JOHN 3:1-17

SERMON Rev. Dr. Tim Noel

Responding to the Word

*HYMN 216 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* ST. CHRISTOPHER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING OUR PRAYERS *See prayer concerns list, back page*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *page 35 in hymnal*

GIVING BACK TO GOD'S KINGDOM *from Ps. 107:21*

*People of God, let us offer our sacrifice of thanksgiving,
telling of God's deeds with songs of joy.*

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 *from Ps. 107:1, 22*

God Sends Us Forth

*HYMN 187 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* BRADBURY

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*BLESSING
HYMN 137 *He Came Down** HE CAME DOWN
**Using the word LIGHT: "He came down that we may have light."*

POSTLUDE

Visiting today? Welcome!

Please tell us a little about yourself!
You can scan this QR code with your
smartphone to fill out our online form.
We would love to get to know you better!



This Week

Sun., March 10 @ 12:00pm - Spiritual Practices Luncheon
Sun., March 10 @ 4:00pm - Interracial Dialogue
Tue., March 12 @ 5:00pm - Earth Care Team Meeting
Wed., March 13 @ 12:00pm - Packing Food Boxes @ GFP
Wed., March 13 @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice
Thur., March 14 @ 10:30am - Spiritual Practices Group
Thur., March 14 @ 4:30pm - Congregational Care Meeting
Thur., March 14 @ 5:45pm - Centering Prayer
Fri., March 15 @ 11:00am - optional carpool to The Rex
Fri., March 15 @ 11:30am - Lunch Ladies to The Rex
Sat., March 16 @ 2:00pm - Food Box Giveaway

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....Paula Burlew
Ushers.....Autumn & Forrest Brock
Audio.....Mary Beth Waller
Video.....Jon Burlew
Coffee Plus.....Lynn Cain

First Reading—Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Second Reading—John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.



Prayers for Comfort, Concern, and Healing

Mo. Chris Brannock; Jenny Gilmore’s niece, Carrie Abbott; Lynn Cain; Ed & Joyce Mick; Autumn Brock; Barbie Cooper; Autumn Brock’s mom, Marie; Jennifer Williams; Glenda Wilson; Pat Carpenter; Bill House; Leslie Phillips

Current Giving

	Rec’d month of Feb.	Needed Monthly	Received YTD	Needed YTD
Pledged Offering	\$8,563	\$11,985	\$18,478	\$23,971
Non-Pledged	\$5,103	\$3,289	\$9,339	\$6,577

Blessing Box Attendant

This Week.....Christie Adams
Next Week.....Marshall Judy

Assisting In Worship Today

Ministers.....Every Member
Liturgist.....Naomi Judy
Ushers.....Marshall Judy & Laura Kamperman
Audio.....Paul Guffey
Video.....Sue Guffey
Coffee Plus.....Cindy Fountain
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald
Interim Pastor.....Rev. Dr. Tim Noel

Deacons:

Paula Burlew	Eileen Stockham	Carol Prater
Cindy Fountain	Mary Beth Waller	Sue Guffey
Marshall Judy	Marci Randall	

Elders:

<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>
Charles Leveridge	Sharon Mandt	Jo Salmon
Zack Vaught	Perry Waller	Laura Wright
John Wright		

First Presbyterian Church

March 10th, 2024

The Fourth Sunday in Lent



Carmody, Courtney. Whole World in God's Hands, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57318> [retrieved March 6, 2024]. Original source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/calamity_photography/4745146362.

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.