

First Presbyterian Evanston

March 19, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

FOCUS

Prelude

O Lord, Be Merciful, Op. 80

(Homer Bartlett, 1845-1920)

With broken heart and contrite sigh, a trembling sinner, Lord, I cry: thy pardoning grace is rich and free. O God, be merciful to me. Nor alms, nor deeds that I have done, can for a single sin atone; to Calvary alone I flee, O God, be merciful to me. And when, redeemed from sin and hell, with all the ransomed throng I dwell, my raptured song shall ever be, God hath been merciful to me.

EXALT

Welcome

Call to Worship – Psalm 23

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

All: He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

Leader: He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

All: Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

Leader: for you are with me;

All: your rod and your staff —

they comfort me.

Leader: You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;

**All: you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,

**All: and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.**

Opening Hymn

How Firm a Foundation, v. 1-3, 5 (*Blue Hymnal #361*)

(Words: "K" in A Selection of Hymns, 1787, ed. John Rippon, alt.;

Music: American folk melody, Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832; CCLI Song #107816)

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be hear thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

Confession of Sins and Assurance of Pardon

All: O Lord, who hast mercy upon all, take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of thy Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart flesh, a heart to love and adore thee, a heart to delight in thee, to follow and to enjoy thee, for Christ's sake. (Ambrose of Milan, c 339-397)

Leader: And now Lord, hear our silent prayers.

(People offer their own silent prayers to the Lord.)

My Worth is Not in What I Own, *chorus*

(Words & Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, & Graham Kendrick, 2014, CCLI Song # 7024758)

I rejoice in my redeemer
Greatest treasure
Wellspring of my soul
And I will trust in him, no other
My soul is satisfied in him alone

I rejoice in my redeemer
Greatest treasure
Wellspring of my soul
And I will trust in him, no other
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Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear these words of assurance from 1 John: "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Songs of Response

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

(Words & Music: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922; CCLI Song #15960)

O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus;
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth
Will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

His Word shall not fail you, He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well.
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus;
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth
Will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

Open Our Eyes, Lord

(Words & Music: Bob Cull, 1976; CCLI Song #1572)

Open our eyes, Lord, We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him, And say that we love Him.

Open our ears, Lord, And help us to listen,
Open our eyes, Lord, We want to see Jesus.

ENCOUNTER

Children's Moment

Sacrament of Baptism – Tom and Timothy Harrington

Passing the Peace of Christ

Faith in Action – The People's Prayer

Scripture

John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to

me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his

disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

Sermon

From Sight to Insight

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem

Verleih uns Frieden

(Words: "Da Pacem Domine," c. 6th/7th c. prayer for peace, transl. Martin Luther;

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1831)

Verleih uns frieden gnädiglich,

(Graciously grant us peace)

Herr Gott! zu unsern zeiten

(Lord God, in our time)

Es ist doch ja kein ander nicht,

(there is no one else)

Der für uns könnte streiten,

(who could fight for us)

Denn du unser Gott alleine.

(except you, our God, alone.)

Doxology & Offering Prayer

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (*Blue Hymnal* #592)

(Words: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709; Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; CCLI Song #56204)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Open My Eyes That I May See (*Blue Hymnal* #324)

(*Words & Music: Clara H. Scott, 1895; CCLI Song #2828718*)

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;

Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Sending & Choral Benediction

Peace I Leave with You

(Words: John 14:27; Music: Amy Beach, 1867-1944)

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.

Not as the world giveth give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled.

Postlude

Why Have You Chosen Me?

(Words & Music: Rodger Strader, 1976)

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Michelle Mariposa, Mezzo-Soprano, Prelude, Postlude

Dr. Rebecca Chu, Organist, Piano

Chancel Choir

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. of Worship & Music, Chancel Choir Director, Piano, Vocals

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor, Welcome, Sacrament of Baptism, Sermon, Offering Invitation, Prayers of the People, Sending & Benediction

Caryl Weinberg, Dir. of Mission, Confession

Rev. Amanda Golbek, Minister of Children & Youth, Children's Moment & Peace

Betsey Newenhuyse, Elder, Faith in Action

Harper, Marilyn, and Melissa Haase, Scripture Reading

Noah McLeod, A/V Volunteer, Live Audio

Kristen Collins, A/V Volunteer, Projection

Jacob Collins, A/V Volunteer, Video Switcher

John Carlson & Qin Zhou, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat

Joe Sickles, Building Team

Amanda Jenta, Tuah Jenta, Stephanie Keene, Ushers

Paul Haase, Greeter

Mike Denesha, Marilyn Haase, Prayer Companions

Christian Education & Childcare

The Nursery will be open from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Children's Worship during the sermon

Children 4-6 years old can go to the Choir Room after the Children's Message for a scripture reading and brief activity. Children will return following the sermon.

Youth/Children's classes meet from 11 a.m.-noon.

Kindergarten thru 4th grade meets in the 3rd Floor East Room.

5th thru 7th grade meets in the 3rd Floor Center Room.

8th thru 12th grade meets in the Dining Room with "How to Read the Bible."

Adult Education meets Sundays at 11 a.m.

Lenten Discussion Group meets in the Parlor.

The Book of Hebrews meets in Room 213 and on Zoom.

How to Read the Bible meets in the Dining Room.

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Mission Statement:

***First Presbyterian Church of Evanston
exists to know Christ and to grow in him
as we serve and make disciples in Evanston, the Chicago area,
and the world.***



This QR code will take you to a web page with links for giving and recording your attendance at today's service via the Connect Card.

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Welcome! We're glad you are here. We ask everyone to complete and return this page. Please tear it off from the stapled bulletin, to slip to the offering basket every week.

March 19, 2022

Your Name

Family members' names/ages

Street Address, City, State, Zip

Phone: Cell Home

Email address

- Send me the weekly E-newsletter
- First time visitor
- Occasional attendee
- Regular attendee/member

- Single
- Married
- Have children at home
- Junior/High School student
- College student/Graduate student

I'm interested in:

- Knowing Jesus better
- I need prayer or support
- I would like to speak with a pastor
- Joining a Small Group
- Joining the Welcome Team
- Worship Music Team
- Sound/AV/Video Team
- Prayer Team
- Becoming a Member
- I need a Stephen Minister
- Communion at home suggested for
_____ (name)

Please pray for:

(This is shared with pastors & confidential prayer team)

Palm Sunday Ecumenical Processional details

Join us in the southwest corner of Raymond Park at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 2, as we join with our neighboring churches for a Palm Sunday processional – complete with a live donkey!

Lake Street Church, Immanuel Lutheran, First Congregational Church of Evanston, and First Pres are inviting attendees to gather together for an ecumenical processional, complete with strolling musicians and palm leaves for all involved.

At the end of the event, each congregation will head to their own church for Palm Sunday services. We will begin our service at 9:30 a.m.



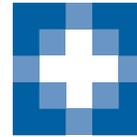
Special Lenten Collection



One of the pillars of the Lenten season is giving. During Lent, the Mission ministry and the Children and Youth ministry invite the congregation to participate in a joint financial collection to benefit those impacted by the war in

Ukraine and the earthquake in Turkey/Syria. First Pres children and youth can participate by collecting cash in one of the provided boxes.

Through focusing on God's call to care and think of others during the Lenten season, we have the opportunity to reflect on the greatest act of love and self-sacrifice offered to us through Christ.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN EVANSTON

Weekly Announcements

March 19, 2023

Baptism

We welcome for the sacrament of baptism this morning Thomas and Timothy Harrington, sons of Thomas Harrington Sr. and Sylvia Koybe

Children's Worship during Sunday Services

Children's Worship is now being offered for 4-6 year olds. Children are invited to go to the Choir Room (across the hall from the northeast Sanctuary doors) after the Children's Message for a scripture reading and brief activity, and will return to the Sanctuary after the sermon.

Family Small Group

Family Small Group meets today from 4-6 p.m. in the Dining Room. This is an opportunity to meet other parents and caregivers and grow in faith as together we study God's Word and call in our lives.

Thank you to our Overnight Shelter Volunteers!

Over the last three weeks, First Pres was host of Interfaith Action's Overnight Shelter, providing a warm place to sleep for those currently unhoused in our community. Thank you to the volunteers who gave of their time and energy to care for our neighbors in need. The Overnight Shelter blessed many because of you!

Wednesday Online Prayer Gathering

Our bi-monthly prayer gathering meets this Wednesday at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Join us as we lift our concerns before our loving God. Visit <http://firstpresevanston.org/prayer-zoom> to join on Zoom.

Parish Nurse Book Club meets March 28

The next book club is Tuesday, March 28 at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor. We will be discussing "The Last Flight" by Julie Clark.

Stephen Ministry Training Applications due March 31

Is God calling you to take a more active role in Christian caregiving? Stephen Ministry Training may be just what you're looking for.



Training begins Saturday, April 16, then meets weekly on Mondays until September 25. The deadline to apply is March 31.

To apply, or for more info, contact Deb Cross at (910) 295-1534 or dcross1531@gmail.com or Bonnie Kath at (847) 507-4146 or bkath@comcast.net.

Egg Hunt candy donations needed

Please consider donating plastic Easter eggs, individually wrapped candy, and small prizes for our Easter egg hunt. Drop off items at the Front Desk, labeled for Pastor Amanda. Donation deadline is Friday, April 7, at Noon.



The Caring Friends Small Group

Caring for anyone who is going through or has gone through the Cancer journey? The Caring Friends will be supportive in Prayer, Love, and Laughter! For more information contact Olga Ricketts-Peart at oricketts@att.net.

Rebuilding Together Postponed

This Spring's Rebuilding Together has been postponed, to be re-scheduled at a later date.

'Thank you' from the Youth Ministry!

Thank you to these generous donors who made it possible for us to purchase a new air hockey table: Jane Pranga, Cam Traut, Pamela Murphy, Alicia Nayak, and Tom and Laurie Kaeser. A special thanks also to the McLeod family who masterfully put the table together.

Drivers, volunteers sought

Friends in Christ provides rides to appointments and meals for those of our congregation in temporary need such as a death in the family or a recent illness/hospitalization. Contact Julie Ruchniewicz at jruchniewicz@firstpresevanston.org to express interest.

The Way of the Cross in Woodcuts

The Way of the Cross is a series of woodcut print images made by Kreg Yingst. Each image highlights a different moment from the last days of Christ. First Pres has purchased a collection of these images, had them printed on metal, and are currently featuring them in a gallery display on the second floor. Images 1 and 2 are



in the upper hallway leading to room 213 across from the bench. Images 3 through 14 are found in the hallway outside the Dining Room. The final image of the exhibit can be found in the Parlor. Unlike many statons of the cross exhibits, which end with the cross and the grave, this series ends with a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. We are displaying it along with Pastor Younan Shiba's wonderful mixed media portrait of the risen Jesus (see image).