



# First Sunday in Lent March 9, 2025



## THE CHURCH GATHERS

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRELUDE

## GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Leader)

As darkness gives way to light and winter sleep to fresh beginnings, we come today to be reminded of God's love for us. Like the green shoots of renewed life, stirring beneath the soil, we welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives. In this time of reflection and repentance, we follow our faithful Lord, and we claim our security, as children of God.

### \* HYMN # 84 (Blue Hymnal)

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

### LENTEN LITANY

(Responsive)

Leader: Let us live this Lenten season with the cross before us.

People: *Show us your cross, Lord Jesus!*

Leader: In times of prosperity, when success and comfort would draw us away from the way of the cross,

People: *Keep your cross before us, Lord Jesus!*

Leader: In darker times of trial and worry when we feel alone, abandoned to wander in the valley of the shadow,

People: *By Thy Holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world Lord Jesus!*

All: *Heavenly Father, as a family of believers in this congregation, we pray that all we do together be governed by your love for us in Christ so that we are always ready and eager to follow him!*

\*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.*

A WORD FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

## THE MORNING PRAYERS and THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

*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*

## WE GIVE THANK OFFERINGS TO GOD

GIVING GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY - *Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Mark 9:14-29

THE SERMON:

Dr. William D. Coker

*"O Unbelieving Generation"*

## WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Lenten Creed

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs. We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted. We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts. We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine. We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us. Amen.

### \*HYMN # 388 (Blue Hymnal)

O Jesus, I Have Promised

\*BENEDICTION

It was never promised that you will not be tempted, not thrown into turmoil, not stumble or fall, but that by grace you will be saved through trusting God. The quiet strength of Christ, the humble power of God, and the pervasive light of the Spirit is yours today and always. Amen.

POSTLUDE - (\*) *We stand as we are able.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The flowers are given today by Melba Knight in honor of Emily Henderson and her fiancée Tyler Evans who will wed on April 5, 2025.
2. 8 Most Significant Words: "Who will you invite to church next Sunday?"
3. #1 Reason to Be at First Pres: *Because we know why we're here - to share the Real Jesus.*
4. A new sermon series continues today - "Difficult Sayings of Jesus"
  - March 9 - "O Unbelieving Generation"
  - March 16 - "Those Who See Will Become Blind"
  - March 23 - "The Kingdom of God Is Within You"
  - March 30 - "Friend, Your Sins Are Forgiveness"
  - April 6 - "Whoever Blasphemes Against the Holy Spirit"
  - April 13 - "The Last Shall Be First and The First Shall Be Last"
5. Prayer List:
  - a. Cathy Martin (Biff's sister), who is battling Pancreatic Cancer.
  - b. Ben Reeves (friend of Allen Boyd)
  - c. Jim Hall (friend of Cokers)
  - d. Rodney Bennett's mother (Betty Driggers) who is hospitalized with heart issues
  - e. Melissa Hughes (niece of Marlene Mathis) had breast cancer that has spread to her bones. During a PET scan, doctors also discovered a broken hip (for which she will have hip replacement surgery). Pray for healing so this mother will be able to see her young children grow up).
  - f. Mary Catherine Mullin (Friend of Hillary Smith) who recently lost a child.
6. We will have our fellowship luncheon next Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A)

**OUR VISION:** ALWAYS BE CHRIST'S DISCIPLES

**OUR MISSION:** TO SHARE HOW JESUS AND HIS LOVE ARE REAL THROUGH ALL CHURCH ACTIVITIES.

217 PARK AVE N, TIFTON, GA 31794  
PASTOR – DR. WILLIAM D. "BIFF" COKER  
229-382-6730; [1STPRESTIFTON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:1STPRESTIFTON@GMAIL.COM)  
[FIRSTPRESTIFTON.ORG](http://FIRSTPRESTIFTON.ORG)