



Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRELUDE

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Responsive)

Leader: In the days of Noah, God placed a rainbow in the sky as the sign of a covenant of God's love for all the earth.

People: In the colors of the rainbow, we see the sign of God's grace for all creation.

Leader: In the days of Moses, the words of God were written on tablets of stone, as the sign of a covenant between God and all of God's people.

People: In the tablets of stone, we see the sign of God's hope for each to live in peace with God and neighbor.

Leader: In the days of the prophet, God promised to place a new covenant in our hearts.

All: As members of the living Body of Christ, we see the sign of God's promise among us. Let us worship God!

* **RED HYMNAL #383**

I Love To Tell The Story

CONFESSION OF SIN

(Unison)

In the blazing light of your love, our failings are illuminated -- our failure to give; our failure to love; our failure to follow; our failure to serve; our failure to be the people you would have us be. Forgive us and renew us. You know our nature and our failings. Enfold us in your arms, that we might daily know your forgiveness and healing love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant . . . I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

***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

HYMN

Awesome God

*Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from Heaven above,
With wisdom, power, and love, Our God is an awesome God. (2x)
Our God is an awesome God. Our God is an awesome God.*

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 READINGS:

Luke 17:20-21; Mark 12:28-34

THE SERMON:

Dr. William D. Coker

"The Kingdom of God Is Within You"

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

"The Apostles' Creed"

Red Hymnal, p. 12

***HYMN**

The Old Rugged Cross

1. *On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best, for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

Chorus: *So, I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross and exchange it some day for a crown.*

2. *In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me.*

3. *To that old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away, where his glory forever I'll share.*

***BENEDICTION**

based on Hebrews 12:1-2

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, who endured the cross and ignored the shame of that death because He focused on the joy set before Him; In the same way, let us also focus on the race ahead and go into this new week confident that God goes with us. Amen.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Today's flowers are given by Melvin & Marlene Mathis to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Marlene's mother, Julia Brooks Goode, whose birthday was March 29, 1919.
2. Welcome Visitors. We're so glad you are here. Please fill out our Welcome/Prayer Requests Card located on the back of the pew and drop it in the Offering Plate. We will pray for you, and if you're itching to serve Christ at First Pres, let us know. We have lots of enjoyable jobs that can make a difference in your life and in the Mission of Christ here. Please feel free to invite your family and friends to come and enjoy our loving and laughing Church family.
3. 8 Most Significant Words: "Who will you invite to church next Sunday?"
4. #1 Reason to Be at First Pres: *Because we know why we're here - to share the Real Jesus.*
5. The sermon series "Difficult Sayings of Jesus continues today:
March 23 - "The Kingdom of God Is Within You"
March 30 - "Friend, Your Sins Are Forgiven"
April 6 - "Whoever Blasphemes Against the Holy Spirit"
April 13 - "The Last Shall Be First and The First Shall Be Last"
6. Prayer List:
 - a. Cathy Martin (Biff's sister), who is battling Pancreatic Cancer. The cancer has metastasized, and she must begin infusions again.
 - b. Ben Reeves (friend of Allen Boyd)
 - c. Jim Hall (friend of Cokers)
 - d. Rodney Bennett's mother (Betty Driggers) who is under hospice care.
 - e. Melissa Hughes (niece of Marlene Mathis) who had breast cancer that has spread to her bones. She will begin radiation and bone infusion therapy. 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.
7. Our fellowship luncheon is today after worship.
8. On Palm Sunday (April 13th), we plan to have our fellowship luncheon followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.
9. We will have a Maundy-Thursday Service on April 17th at 6:00 pm.
10. Emily Henderson will marry Tyler Evans on April 5, 2025, in Moultrie. The Church has received an invitation for everyone to attend.
11. Take a few minutes to go to the educational building and see the bulletin board with all of Biff's "misfit" bulletins.

The Kingdom of God

Is within YOU



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.

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