



Fourth Sunday in Lent March 30, 2025



THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRELUDE

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader

Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious. Confess to the Lord your God, for God is merciful. Repent to the Lord your God, for God is slow to anger. Praise the Lord your God, for God abounds in steadfast love. Together, let us worship the Lord our God!

*** HYMN 370**

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

CONFESSION OF SIN

(Unison)

Lord, Your Kingdom is open to all by Your grace and through faith in Jesus but we often construct roadblocks that hinder people from entering. We demand good behavior from others before showing them where to find Your life-changing mercy. We work to appear righteous and good but fail to practice Jesus' basic instructions: love God, love others, forgive freely, and share the Good News. Forgive us for our sin and our waywardness. Let us lean wholly on Your power that we may follow You faithfully and lead others to Your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 John 4:9-10

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

***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

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS:

Psalm 103:8-12

NEW TESTAMENT READING:

Luke 5:17-26

THE SERMON:

Dr. William D. Coker

"Friend, Your Sins Are Forgiven"

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Trinitarian Creed

Leader: *God is Love;*

People: *God is Love, indeed!*

Leader: *Jesus is Lord;*

People: *Jesus is Lord, indeed!*

Leader: *The Holy Spirit Comforts;*

People: *The Holy Spirit Comforts, indeed!*

All: *Glory be to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

***HYMN 280**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

***BENEDICTION**

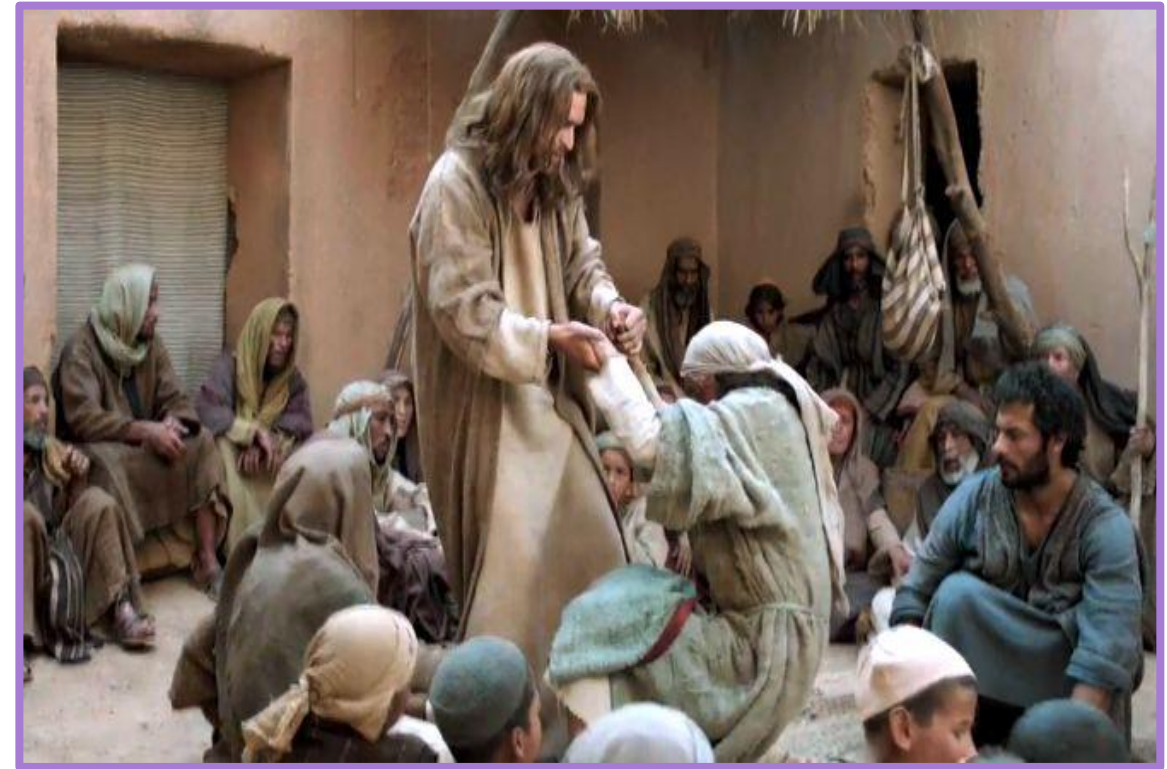
Matthew 18: 21-35

As you have been forgiven, now go into a world that needs your forgiving, healing touch. Bring peace and hope to others, sharing God's love with them. AMEN.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Today's flowers are given by Debra & Allen Boyd in loving memory of Debra's sisters, Carol (who died March 30, 2020) and Gayle (who died April 2, 2004).
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 or hand it to the pastor. 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 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. Jynni Bowyer as she recovers from surgery.
 - c. Cheryl Coker who is recovering from foot surgery.
 - d. Ben Reeves (friend of Allen Boyd) who had a cancerous kidney removed.
 - e. Jim Hall (friend of Cokers)
 - f. Rodney Bennett's mother (Betty Driggers) who is under hospice care.
 - g. Melissa Hughes (niece of Marlene Mathis) who has bone cancer. She will begin radiation and bone infusion therapy. Pray for healing so this mother will be able to see her young children grow up).
 - h. Mary Catherine Mullin (Friend of Hillary Smith) who recently lost a child.
 - i. Susan Robbins (friend of Cokers)
 - j. Diane Carr - Bone Cancer.
 - k. Someone who feels lost and not loved by God.
7. On Palm Sunday, we will have our fellowship luncheon and Easter Egg Hunt.
8. We will have a Maundy-Thursday Service on April 17th at 6:00 pm.
9. On Easter Sunday, we will have our sunrise service at 7:30 am in the circular drive; at 11:00 am we will have our traditional Easter service.
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.



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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