



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 27, 2022

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*IN PARADISUM*

D. WRIGHT

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

*HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?*

QUAKER SONG ARR. JAY ALTHOUSE

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation  
I hear the real tho' far off song that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?

While though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth it liveth  
And though the darkness round me close,  
Songs in the night it giveth.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is lord of heav'n and earth,  
How can I keep from singing?

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God's reach is endless.

**God's mercy is unstoppable.**

God's grace is lavish.

**God's love is constant.**

God's wisdom is vast. God's hope is stubborn.

**God's presence is here— with us, among us, moving through us.**

Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

**We are in God's house. Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.**

Let us pray -

God of open doors, We often long to come home to you, to love, and to ourselves, but we aren't always sure how to get there. We know that we need you, but the road back to you is heavy with distractions. So if we can dare to be so forward, we pray— reach into the cacophony of our hearts and minds and make yourself known. Quiet everything but your Word for us today. Leave us awestruck. Drown out the distractions. Come as thunder or come as a still, small voice; we don't care which, we just pray that you will come. Turn on the light. Speak to us. Find the parts of us that are lost. With hope we pray, amen.

#### \* HYMN #649

*AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND*

"AMAZING GRACE"

CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name. It sounds like ours. And we know his story. It sounds like ours. For who among us hasn't burned a bridge? Who among us hasn't forgotten that we belong to one another? Who among us has not ached for home? The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name. Forgive us God. We want to come home. Amen

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

RESPONSE #551

LORD, HAVE MERCY

"LAND OF REST"

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

*We recognize how important we are to each other - as we worship, we pass the peace of Christ from our seats and wave to those who are joining us via Livestream. We belong to each other and are stronger together.*

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us.

We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on and throws a feast when we are found.

We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us when we get lost. We believe in a God of prodigal grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other. We remember that humans are not meant to go through life alone; so we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live like we are family, and to lead with grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

We believe that this is our call. Let it be so. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup>Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

ANTHEM

KYRIE (FROM MASS NO. 2 IN G MAJOR)  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; LAUREL PLITNIK, SOPRANO  
Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.  
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797-1828)

SERMON

"FULL TO THE BRIM: PRODIGAL GRACE"

JOSH GILHART

\* HYMN #754

HELP US ACCEPT EACH OTHER

"BARONITA"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)*

OFFERTORY DUET

PIE JESU

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

LAUREL PLITNIK, SOPRANO; MIKAYLA DODGE, SOPRANO; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN  
Merciful Jesus, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest.  
O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world; grant them eternal rest.

\* DOXOLOGY #606

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"OLD HUNDRETH"

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 DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

\* HYMN #450

BE THOU MY VISION

"SLANE"

\* BENEDICTION

\* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION

SPIRIT

JOHN WIMBER

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR, THE CONGREGATION, AND BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE

O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love,  
Let him fill your life and satisfy your soul.  
O let him have the things that hold you and his Spirit,  
like a dove, will descend upon your life and make you whole.  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.  
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

POSTLUDE

VOLUNTARY IN F  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

WILLIAM HINE (1687-1730)

\* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.  
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

### This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher..... Josh Gilhart  
Liturgist..... Mikayla Dodge  
Director of Music Ministries..... Judith Brown  
Musicians..... The Sanctuary Choir; Mikayla Dodge, Soprano; Brenda Luger, Flute; Laurel Plitnik, Soprano  
Audio/Video Technicians..... Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers..... Kathy Dowell & David Stickler

A Congregational Meeting is called by the Session for next Sunday, April 3rd, immediately following the worship service for the purpose of electing Gary Hendrickson to the class of 2023 to serve on the Administration and Finance committee. Please plan to attend.

*Bulletin Artwork: "New in Christ" by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman - Inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 - Digital painting*

**MASK POLICY UPDATE:** At the March session meeting, Session decided that masks will now be optional throughout the building and in worship. However, masks will still be required for choir members and aerosol producing instrumentalists when making music during worship.

## OUR STAFF

Teaching Elder/Pastor.....	Rev. Alison Peters
Director of Music Ministries .....	Judith Brown
Executive Administrative Assistant.....	Brittany Jackson
Sexton.....	Zach Dodge
Sound Tech/Security.....	Joe Aurigemma
Audio/Video Technician.....	Eric Ringler

## SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### CLERK OF SESSION

Carolyn Mathews

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Carl Belt

### BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Mikayla Dodge & Susan Mills

### FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Katie Ross

### MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Brenda Luger

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Mike Levitas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

## VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a community grounded in the good news of God's love in Christ where all of God's children are:

- Welcomed and cherished
- Called to worship, learn and grow together in faith, and
- Sent to share God's love and justice with a broken and hurting world.

-Adopted by the Session on September 17, 2015

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME:** A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud of being a “Big Tent Church” where everyone is welcome to join us in worshipping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life. We welcome you to worship with us.

**WELCOME VISITORS:** We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at [www.fpc-cumberland.org](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org) and [www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland](http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland).

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:** We welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship.

**THE PRAY-GROUND** is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God’s youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. “Jesus said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it’” (Mark 10:14-15).

**FRIENDSHIP PADS:** Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the “Welcome to First Presbyterian Church” card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

**PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES:** (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Neil Smith, by Nancy and Royce Hodges. Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

**SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS:** Please use orange prayer request cards in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys and concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering.

## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

### RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of March 20, 2022
Total 2022 Pledges Promised	\$202,976.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 31,100.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$171,876.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 39,298.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 39,663.00
Over/(Under)	\$ (365.00)

**ORGAN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:** We are raising money to replace our organ’s 50-year-old console with a new solid-state relay and control system. The upgrade will provide numerous benefits: we will no longer worry about the organ’s reliability, wiring in the console will be brought up to code, the new control system will reduce the number of moving parts in the console and will be less susceptible to changes in temperature and humidity, the new control system will have numerous

levels of memory so that each organist will have many preset combinations available, and the new control system will have the ability to record, store and playback performances. Session has approved this project, and Buck and Jane Belt are offering to match the first \$15,000 of gifts received from members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. All gifts are welcome. You can make a one-time gift or pay in four installments over the next 12 months. Pledge Cards can be found in your pews this morning and can be dropped in the offering plate or placed in the church office.

## MISSION

RULING ELDERS: AARON HENDRICKSON & BRENDA LUGER

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** On Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> our congregation will have the opportunity to contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Roughly one third of the proceeds will help support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) program which is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It enables our congregations and mission partners to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events such as flooding, extreme storms, wildfires and hurricanes here and abroad. Please consider giving generously to this offering.

## Holy Week Services

\*Palm/Passion Sunday, April 10th:

10:15 AM Churches on the Hill Gathering on Washington Street

11:00 AM Traditional Service at First Presbyterian

\*Easter Egg Blessing Milestone at 1:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church - all families are invited to attend!

\*Maundy Thursday, April 14th at 7:00 PM at First Presbyterian

\*Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross, April 15th at 12:00 PM  
beginning at The Shrine of Saints Peter & Paul

\*Easter Sunday, April 17th:

Sunrise Service at Rocky Gap at 7:00 AM

Traditional Service in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian at 11:00 AM

**First Presbyterian Church  
Invites you to an  
Easter Egg  
Blessing Milestone  
April 10, 2022 at 1:00 PM  
First Presbyterian Church  
Fellowship Hall**



**A Milestones Ministry Moment for young children,  
grandchildren, their families and friends!**

**Activities include: Light lunch, egg coloring, egg hunting, and Easter storytelling.**

**Please RSVP to Brittany by Wednesday, April 6th.**

## EASTER FLOWERS 2022

If you would like to purchase flowers for the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please indicate below whether you wish to take your flowers home afterward, or if you wish them to be given to one of our in-home or nursing care members. Please indicate your selection and total below. **Orders are due by next Sunday, April 3rd.**

	Price Each	Quantity	Total
Lily	\$7.00	_____	\$_____
Tulips	\$7.00	_____	\$_____
Hyacinths	\$7.00	_____	\$_____
Chrysanthemums	\$7.00	_____	\$_____
		<b>Total</b> _____	<b>\$</b> _____

My floral gift is in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given to the Glory of God by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate: I would like to take my flowers home \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to donate the flowers \_\_\_\_\_

## Easter Music 2022

You can also celebrate Easter by contributing to the Special Music Fund. This fund is separate from the budget and is used to pay guest musicians who provide special music during worship on holidays and throughout the year.

*Note: Special Music contributions may also be given any time of the year.*

Special Music Contribution \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My Special Music gift is in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given to the Glory of God by: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks for music should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and the form returned to the church no later than next Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> if you want your dedication listed in the bulletin.