

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 25, 2024 11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ARR. J TANOLI

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

A SOWER CAME FROM ANCIENT HILLS
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"SEACHRIST"

A Sower came from ancient hills and cast good seed abroad:
His field, ten thousand human hearts; his seed, the word of God.
And some who listened would not hear, and some who heard forgot.
But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower taught.

A Sower walked throughout the land and everywhere he trod,
he sowed his life because he was himself the Seed of God.

But then, atop a barren hill, beneath a darkening sky,
they threw God's Seed on stony ground and left it there to die.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We gather in this Lenten season knowing we are broken.

Come and be seen.

We gather in this Lenten season knowing we need forgiveness.

Come and be heard.

We gather in this Lenten season knowing our hearts long for God.

Come and be loved.

We gather in this Lenten season knowing God calls us all.

Come as you are.

Let us pray -

God, we bring our full selves into this space. As we worship, help us to sense your presence. As we listen, give us understanding. As we move forward, let us have courage. For your goodness endures forever and we offer our praise.
Amen.

* HYMN #718

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, THE SAVIOR SAID

"BOURBON"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our Heavenly Creator, you have called us to heavenly things. You have called us to be born of the spirit, to live into the birth of our baptism. As you called Abram and Sarai out of their homeland, so, too, you call us to new and unexpected places. The mysteries of the Holy Spirit call us to new and unexpected journeys. Jesus spoke in paradox, proclaiming that those who wished to save their lives must give up their lives and follow him. Grant us strength to take up our crosses and follow. Give us power to bathe once more in the waters of your baptismal font. Give us strength to remember we are blessed so that we might bless others. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #183

COME TO ME, O WEARY TRAVELER (VS. 1)

“AUSTIN”

**Come to me, O weary traveler; come to me with your distress;
come to me, you heavy burdened; come to me and find your rest.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

Please stand and greet those in the pews near you. Send a wave to the camera for those joining online.

We recognize how important we are to each other; we belong to each other and are stronger together.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18

15 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”² But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”⁸ But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates,

SOLO

RETURN TO THE HEART
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

DAVID LANZ

SCRIPTURE READING

MARK 8:31-38

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again.³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

SERMON

“LIFE”

REV. ALISON PETERS

*** HYMN #713**

TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY

“TENDERNESS”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

LORD, FOR THY TENDER MERCY'S SAKE
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

JOHN HILTON

Lord, for Thy tender mercy's sake lay not our sins to our charge;
But forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives;
To decline from sin and incline to virtue
That we may walk with an upright heart before thee this day and evermore.

* DOXOLOGY #250

HYMN OF PROMISE (VS. 1)

"PROMISE"

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

* 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 #732

REJOICE IN GOD'S SAINTS

"OLD 104TH"

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #549

MAY THE LOVE OF THE LORD

"SOON T1"

May the love of the Lord rest up - on your soul.

May God's love dwell in you, through - out ev - ery day.

May God's coun - te-nance shine up - on you and be gra - cious to you.

May God's Spir - it be up - on you as you leave this place.

POSTLUDE

HEINLEIN
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

* 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 Rev. Alison Peters
 Liturgist.....Juliana Gallo
 Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....Judith Brown
 Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Nursery Care Workers.....Chris & Kelsey Gallo
 Ushers..... David Stickler & Linda Mellon



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 to join us. 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 and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland.

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.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS: Please use the 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. The orange prayer request cards are also available in the pew racks.



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: You are welcome 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 “To Families with Young Children” 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. **Nursery care is provided during worship for all children 4 years of age and younger!**

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).

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. You may specify live or silk flowers.

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Alison is available when requested or informed of a need. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit or phone call, please call or text her to let her know. *[Fridays are generally her day off and she will respond when she is available.]*

Ways to contact Pastor Alison: call, text, or email: 814-715-1681 / revalisonpeters@gmail.com

**To help with scheduling,
please reach out to the Church Office:
301-777-3700/ firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com**



MONDAY, FEBRUARY (26)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY (27)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY (28)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
12:00 PM STAFF LUNCHEON
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY (29)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:00 PM LENTEN BOOK STUDY MEAL
5:30 PM LENTEN BOOK STUDY

FRIDAY, MARCH (1)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, MARCH (2)

SUNDAY, MARH (3)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:
HOLY COMMUNION
12:30 PM SOUTH DAKOTA
INFORMATIONAL MEETING

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of February 18, 2024

Total 2023 Pledges Promised	\$220,460.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 21,721.00
<u>2023 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$198,738.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 30,355.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 26,501.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 3,853.00

ONLINE GIVING



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP?

This invitation is for anyone who has visited us in worship and wants to know more about what membership means in the PC(USA) -

Pastor Alison welcomes you to join her in the Parlor during the Second Sunday Social on March 10th. This is a time to learn more about our congregation and ask any questions you might have about membership at First Presbyterian Church. If you are unable to attend these gatherings, feel free to reach out to Pastor Alison to schedule a time one-on-one! revalisonpeters@gmail.com.

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH: Join us on Palm Sunday (March 24th) after worship for a Palm Sunday Brunch and our annual Easter Egg Blessing! Use the slip below to RSVP for the brunch.

Name: _____

Palm Sunday Easter Egg Blessing: Number of people attending _____

DAKOTA LEARNING CAMP INFORMATIONAL MEETING - Sunday, March 3rd @ 12:30 PM (Dakota Room)

Would you be interested in volunteering at this summer's learning camp? Want to know more? We'd love to answer your questions and tell you about this year's camp and the new exciting format we will follow. Adults of all ages and youth are encouraged to join us! No teaching experience is necessary, just a love for God's children and a willingness to learn. **Camp Dates: June 15-June 22, 2024.**

