

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 17, 2024 11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

WATERMARK
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

ENYA

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.

O Christ, you come among us still, the Sower and the Seed.
As once you sowed the truth of God in glowing word and deed.
Implant your Word in waiting hearts and let it there take hold,
Until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundredfold.

* 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 #796

WE COME TO YOU FOR HEALING, LORD

"LAND OF REST"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God Almighty, all too often we choose the way of despair. All too often we choose to live in darkness and death, rather than seeking your light, love, and grace. Help us to see possibility in the life you offer us. We are empty bodies until you breathe into us the breath of life. Like the army of Ezekiel's vision, breathe into each of us the breath of life. Fill this place with the power of your Holy Spirit. Like Mary and Martha, we are often filled with doubt and sorrow. Open our eyes to the miracle of your creation. Open our eyes to the miracle of your re-creation. As Jesus resurrected Lazarus

from the dead, so you can resurrect what needs to live within us. We pray for the way of life, for the way of love. Guide us in all things, oh giver of life. 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

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

37 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

ANTHEM

UNTIL LOVE IS SPOKEN

KAREN MORROLI

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Grant us gentleness in power,
Grant us strength to face this hour, to forgive, to offer grace
And nurture peace in every place.
Grant us hope when all seems dire,
Grant us faith to start a fire, to fiercely burn, to drown the night,
And set the world ablaze with light.
And when we meet resistance and our call puts us in danger,
Grant us patience and persistence to stand up for friend and stranger.
Grant us courage to be kind,
Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear,
So only love is spoken here.
And when our path of justice leads us to the dreadful fight,
Grant us vigor and entrust us with the power to do what's right.
Grant us courage to be kind,
Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear
So only love is spoken here.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 11:1-45

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it

is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

SERMON

"RESTORATION"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #286

BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD

"TRENTHAM"

MISSION IN A MINUTE

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

LINDA SMITH

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

KUMBAYAH
THE JOYBELLS

ARR. JOHN F. WILSON

* 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

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

KELSEY GALLO, GARY HENDRICKSON, & BRENDA LUGER (CLASS OF 2027); LINDA SMITH (CLASS OF 2025)

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE AND STATEMENT ON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM
 CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS
 PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND LAYING ON OF HANDS
 DECLARATION
 WELCOME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER- (Ecumenical Version)

(You are welcome to pray the Lord's Prayer with the version most familiar to you.)

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 #700 I'M GONNA LIVE SO GOD CAN USE ME "I'M GONNA LIVE"

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #549 MAY THE LOVE OF THE LORD "SOON TI"

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-tenance 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 ALLEGRO IN D MINOR ANONYMOUS
 JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

* 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.....Carl Belt
 Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....Judith Brown
 Director of the JoyBells.....Julie Courtney
 Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; The JoyBells
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Nursery Care Workers.....Chris & Kelsey Gallo
 Ushers..... Linda Mellon & Kathy Dowell



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, which are located 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



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God memory of Joan Ralston, by Carl and Jane Belt



MONDAY, MARCH (18)

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

TUESDAY, MARCH (19)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH (20)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
10:30 AM STAFF MEETING
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH (21)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
5:00 PM LENTEN BOOK STUDY MEAL
5:30 PM LENTEN BOOK STUDY
7:00 PM SESSION MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH (22)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, MARCH (23)

PEO MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH (24)

10:00 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:45 AM PALM BLESSING & PROCESSION
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:
PALM SUNDAY
12:00 PM PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH &
EASTER EGG BLESSING

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of March 10, 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	\$ 50,062.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 37,875.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 12,186.00

ONLINE GIVING



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: On Sunday, March 24th, we will have the opportunity to contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People Program are all supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. These three programs all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please give from your abundance in this time of rebirth.

Join FPC for our Holy Week Services!

*MAUNDY THURSDAY- MARCH 28TH 6:30 PM at First Presbyterian

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/EASTER SUNDAY- MARCH 31ST

SUNRISE SERVICE at Rocky Gap at 7:00 AM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian at 11:00 AM

CHURCHES ON THE HILL HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

We will join this Holy Week with our friends at Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran for joint worship services:

The Palm Sunday (March 24th)- Ecumenical Palm Blessing & Procession will begin at 10:45 AM on the Washington Street Library steps and we will finish in time to return to FPC for our traditional service at 11:00 AM.

Good Friday (March 29th) - Walking Stations of the Cross at 12: 00 PM (Service will begin at the Shrine of Saints Peter and Paul and end at First Presbyterian Church. Transportation will be available for anyone with difficulty walking long distances.)

EASTER FLOWERS 2024

If you would like to purchase flowers to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please indicate your selection below. Please also choose if you wish to take your flowers home after the service, 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 Friday, March 22nd.**

	Price Each	Quantity	Total
Daffodils	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Tulips	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Hyacinths	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Lily	\$8.00	_____	\$ _____
Chrysanthemums	\$8.00	_____	\$ _____
	Total	_____	\$ _____

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 2024

You may 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 you need to return the form to the church no later than **Sunday, March 24th** if you want your dedication listed in the bulletin.