

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

4th Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

10:00 a.m.

In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Concerns of the Church

Prelude

Call to Worship

Be merciful to me, O God,

be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge;

in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge

until the destroying storms pass by.

Psalm 57:1

* Hymn 687 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,

you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.

We confess that we have strayed from you

and turned aside from your way.

We are misled by pride,

for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,

and great when we are small.

We have failed in love, neglected justice,

and ignored your truth.

Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.

Return us to paths of righteousness

through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

* Silent Confession

* Kyrie 579

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

* Assurance of Pardon

* Passing of the Peace

During the season of Lent, we will refrain from singing alleluias.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: A Collection of Wise Biblical Sayings about Friendship

Psalter: Psalm 55 (OT, p. 522)

Anthem

"Shepherd Me, O God"

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 26:31-35, 57-58, 69-75

Sermon: "Somewhere Between Oops and Mea Culpa"

Rev. Carter

Lenten Series: Learning from Matthew's Passion

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 218

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 801

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Amen (601)

* Postlude

*All are invited to remain seated to listen to the postlude.
If you are leaving before it is finished, please do so quietly.*

* All who are able shall stand.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor
Director of Music
Organist
Liturgist

Rev. William G. Carter
Frank Jones
Jan Thyren
Laura Moore



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

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From the book of Proverbs, a collection of wise sayings about friendship:

Proverbs 17.17:

A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity.

Proverbs 18.24:

Some friends play at friendship
but a true friend sticks closer than one's nearest kin.

Proverbs 19.7:

If the poor are hated even by their kin,
how much more are they shunned by their friends!
When they call after them, they are not there.

Proverbs 27.10:

Do not forsake your friend or the friend of your parent;
do not go to the house of your kindred in the day of your calamity.
Better is a neighbor who is nearby than kindred who are far away.

And from the wise book of Sirach, chapter 6:

When you gain friends, gain them through testing,
and do not trust them hastily.
For there are friends who are such when it suits them,
but they will not stand by you in time of trouble.
And there are friends who change into enemies,
and tell of the quarrel to your disgrace.
And there are friends who sit at your table,
but they will not stand by you in time of trouble. (6:7-8)

Psalm 55

Give ear to my prayer, O God; do not hide yourself from my supplication.

Attend to me, and answer me; I am troubled in my complaint. I am distraught

by the noise of the enemy, because of the clamor of the wicked. For they bring trouble upon me, and in anger they cherish enmity against me.

My heart is in anguish within me, the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me.

And I say, "O that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest;

truly, I would flee far away; I would lodge in the wilderness;
Selah

I would hurry to find a shelter for myself from the raging wind and tempest."

Confuse, O Lord, confound their speech; for I see violence and strife in the city.

Day and night they go around it on its walls, and iniquity and trouble are within it;

ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud do not depart from its marketplace.

It is not enemies who taunt me— I could bear that; it is not adversaries who deal insolently with me— I could hide from them.

But it is you, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend, with whom I kept pleasant company; we walked in the house of God with the throng.

Let death come upon them; let them go down alive to Sheol; for evil is in their homes and in their hearts.

But I call upon God, and the LORD will save me.

Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he will hear my voice.

He will redeem me unharmed from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me.

God, who is enthroned from of old, Selah will hear, and will humble them— because they do not change, and do not fear God.

My companion laid hands on a friend and violated a covenant with me

with speech smoother than butter, but with a heart set on war; with words that were softer than oil, but in fact were drawn swords.

Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

But you, O God, will cast them down into the lowest pit; the bloodthirsty and treacherous shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you.

Matthew 26:31-35, 57-58, 69-75

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end.

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Family Announcements

Our congregation worships God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.

We welcome you to our live-streamed worship service!

Tell us your prayer concerns. Prayer Request Cards are available in the pews. Pass them to the center aisle to be collected during the first hymn.

Please pray for: the church of the week is First Welsh Presbyterian Church of Edwardsville; Lynn, Shirley, Carole, Betty Ann, Marjorie, JoAnn, Judy and family, Penny, John, Barbara, Diane, Heather, Ray S., Molly, Devon, Aunt Fay, Haley, Len, Margaret, Maria, Mary Lou, Larry, Marion, Ruth, Tom, Warren, Bovard family, Lauren, Joe, Kendra, Leslie, Linda, Nancy C., Jen, Jacob W., Darlene, Ed, Alma, John L., Ron H., John C., military personnel including Connor Smith, Chris Yankow, Matt Dobson, Dave Scofield, Jason Waters, Jacob Wescott.

Our online photo directory is ready to be used. You can still submit a digital photo to be added to it. Did you know that only the church members who submitted their contact information will be able to access your information? Get in touch with JoAnn Hall if you have questions.

St. Francis Clothing Center is in need of all types of clean, gently-used, winter clothing for men and women. Please leave your donations in the box located in fellowship hall. Clothing will be delivered weekly.

The church's Nominating Team has begun its work. We are looking for great leaders who can serve as elders and deacons. Have someone to recommend? Notify Rev. Carter of your suggestion.

The PW State Hospital Luncheon/Party has been cancelled.

MBK Quilts—Same time, Same place, NEW DATE - April 28

Please note: the My Brothers' Keeper Annual Sewing Workshop has been rescheduled to **April 28**, from 10-2 in Fellowship Hall due to the current coronavirus threat. Hope you can join us on the new date!

The memorial service for Richard Bovard has been rescheduled for April 25.

The Way Classes for Children and Adults will resume once the health crisis has passed.

The Mission and Justice Committee is sponsoring a volunteer morning at the **Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank on Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.** We will meet in the church parking lot to carpool, leaving at 8:30. Our work will be packing monthly food boxes for qualifying senior citizens in four counties in an assembly line manner. It is a group project of light-hearted fun, while providing a service to our community. If you would like to join the group, please contact Diane Scheuer at divinends@gmail.com, 570-362-3276, or speak to her at church.

Save these Dates! All events will take place in our sanctuary.

Sunday, April 5, 10:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday Service

Thursday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 10, 12:00 noon—1:00 p.m.
Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 12
Services at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.