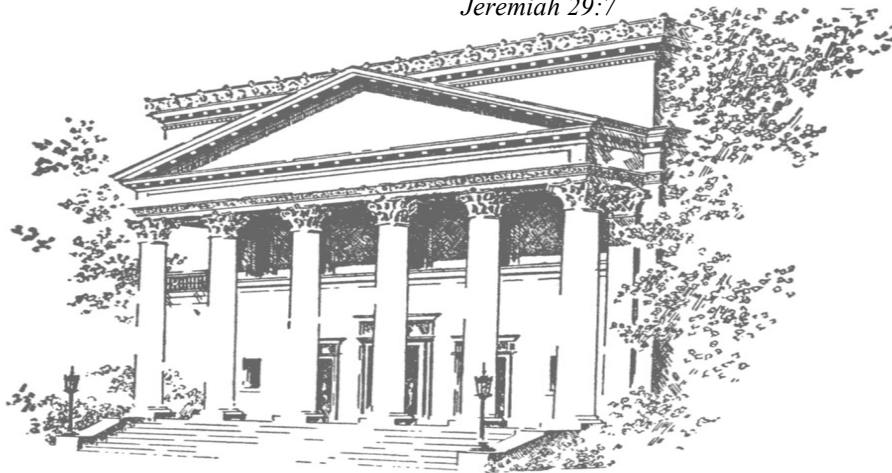


Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...
And pray to the Lord on its behalf

Jeremiah 29:7



First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301-2487
304-343-8961
www.firstpresby.com

Pastor:
The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

Ministers:
All members of the congregation

The Worship of Our Lord

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2023
10:30 AM

Welcome to First Presby! We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the end of the pews. We use this information for contact tracing and to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read the electronic newsletter "First Presby Press" and the weekly Green Sheet. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors. Thank you!

REFLECTION FOR WORSHIP

The following scriptures and reflection are provided for silent Meditation during the Prelude

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

*I don't care if you're dead!
JESUS IS HERE,
And he wants to
Resurrect somebody.
Rumi*

* indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO . . .

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Toccata in E minor

Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME

Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lindsay Marchio

One: Wait for the Lord.

All: Our souls wait and hope in God's word.

One: Hope in the Lord.

All: With God there is steadfast love, and great power to redeem.

One: Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning,

All: more than those who watch for the morning.

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: Christ is nearer to us than we can imagine. Jesus' power is not just for a distant past and a far-off future. Jesus is here for us here and now.

All: Because there is forgiveness with God, let us call upon the Lord.

God of resurrection,
We know the power of death.
We have seen its works,
We have felt its sting.
We have been to the valley of despair,
And felt like there was no chance for life.
We question your power to resurrect.
We doubt your power to redeem our pain,
And fashion something beautiful in this world.
Forgive us.
We cry from the depths
However faint our call may be,
We pray you hear our voice.

(Silence is kept for personal confession)

KYRIE ELEISON

*"Lord, Have Mercy upon Us"
Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us*

MERBECKE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Thus says the Lord, You shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.

All: We believe the good news! Thanks be to God.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581 Glory Be to the Father

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, amen.*

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (OT p.806) & Psalm 130 (OT p. 573)

Lindsay Marchio

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
West Virginia Symphony Youth Orchestra Chamber Ensemble

J.S. Bach

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 11:1-45 (NT p. 104)

Pastor Myers

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Myers

(Children in grades 1-5 are dismissed to Children's Church in Room E-117 or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.)

SERMON

"Merely Having Breath Doesn't Make Us Alive!"

Pastor Myers

*HYMN #288

Spirit of the Living God

LIVING GOD

First Time—*Women* Second Time—*Men* Third Time—*All*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—from the *Confession of 1967 - PC(USA)*

Lindsay Marchio

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Myers

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.

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER #227

Jesus, Remember Me

REMEMBER ME

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Pastor Myers

Offertory

In the Hour of Trial

Vivian Vevenger

*Offering Response #607

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDRETH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN #450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Myers

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

arr. Diane Bish

Our worship continues in our service to others.

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.
May the gift of worship we offer today honor God and serve as a blessing to you.
Worship is broadcast at 11AM on WCHS-580AM
Worship is also available on our YouTube channel.

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
Lindsay Marchio

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music and Organist
The Sanctuary Choir
West Virginia Symphony Youth Orchestra Chamber Ensemble

ALSO SERVING TODAY

Chiming the Trinity: David Cottrell
Greeters: Tom + Kelly Uldrich
Joshua Higginbotham,
Nancy Winefordner

Audio & Video: Byron Goodew & David Cottrell
Custodial Services: David Feibelman

WORSHIP NOTES

Please remember that we worship every **Sunday Sabbath Day**, and that is available via YouTube and the radio broadcast. Thank you for connecting for worship with First Presby.

Staff of First Presbyterian Church

William Myers, Pastor/Head of Staff
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator
Margie Myers, Interim Christian Education Director

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool
Erin Stone, Preschool Office Administrator
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian
Steven Barrett, Facilities Manager
Keith Avery, Custodial Services