

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHIMES

(The congregation is asked to pray for the blessing of God upon this service.)

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, and the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength. Amen.

PRELUDE *Improvisation on "His Eye is on the Sparrow"*
Hollice S. Watson

INTROIT *Bless the Lord* Taizé chant
(Sung three times: first by the choir, then second and third with the congregation joining.)



CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might

-Deuteronomy 6:4-5

†OPENING HYMN, No. 555 *Now Thank We All Our God*
NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we seek your forgiveness,
for the way we measure our lives by the yardstick of dollars and cents;
for our thirst after money, success, and possessions,
for the ways we dilute our allegiance to you by our commitment to our personal gain.

You alone are Lord – yet our focus is divided.

Put us back together.

Reconcile us.

Turn us around.

That we might serve you and you alone.

We ask it in faith and with a strong desire to be made whole.

Amen.

(Continue your personal prayer of confession in silence)

KYRIE ELEISON, No. 572

Congregation and Choir

Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†LENTEN ACT OF PRAISE, No. 84 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*
RATHBUN

In the cross of Christ I glory, All the light of sacred story
Towering o'er the wrecks of time; Gathers round its head sublime.

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Stand, as you are able, and greet one another saying: **"The peace of Christ be with you."** Respond by saying: **"And also with you."**
(Children are invited to come forward now for A Time with Children.)

THE WORD

ANTHEM *God's Children* Beth Mochnick
The Children's Choir - Raynelle Stanage, conductor

I am one of God's little children. You can be one of God's children, too.
All God's children go tell the news. All you have to do is read the Bible.
All you have to do is love the Savior. All you have to do is share the story.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children, ages 2-3 yrs. who will be going to Extended Session and children, ages 4-first grade who will be in the The Worship Center, may exit at this time through the right front door, where they will be escorted to the CE Building.

Leader: As you depart from us now, the children of God say:

Children: God be with you as you stay.

Congregation: God be with you as you go.

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching,
we are marching in the light of God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 55:1-11
Pew Bible, page 644; large print, page 838
(Bibles are located in the racks beneath the pews.)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 6:19-34
Pew Bible, page 6; large print, page 7
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Getting Our Priorities Straight: The Almighty Dollar*
Rev. Pendleton Peery

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from Colossians 1:15-20*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

†HYMN, No. 419 *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* REPTON

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND RECOGNITION OF TRUSTEES

Statement on Ordination and Installation
Renunciations
Constitutional Questions
Prayer of Ordination and Laying on of Hands
Declaration of Ordination and Installation

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

Offertory *Not One Sparrow is Forgotten* Shaker hymn
arr. William Hawley

The Women of the Sanctuary Choir

Not one sparrow is forgotten, Then shall I not trust Thee, Father,
E'en the raven God will feed; In Thy mercy have a share?
And the lily of the valley And through faith and prayer, my Mother,
From His bounty hath its need. Merit Thy protecting care?

†Doxology, No. 592 OLD HUNDREDTH

†Prayer of Dedication

†HYMN, No. 343 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*
BEECHER

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†RESPONSE *Children of the Heavenly Father* Swedish melody
The Sanctuary Choir

Children of the heavenly Father Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Safely in his bosom gather; Such a refuge e'er was given.

†POSTLUDE *Voluntary* David N. Johnson

† Worshipers standing if able.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God.

Elder Reader: Julie Blewer
 Ushers: Robin Jones (captain), Mary Anne Selber, Bobbie Hicks, Janet Smith,
 Barb Deane
 Extended Session: Lindsey Wells Peery
 Worship Center Leaders: Anna Gnann, Sharon Cage
 Acolytes: Grace Folsom, Claire Folsom

WORSHIP NOTES

WE WELCOME FRIENDS AND VISITORS. This church is for anyone who wants to be counted as a disciple of Jesus Christ, and who wants to be included in its worship and work. Thank you for signing your name and address on the attendance pad. There is an information center with material about our church and Presbyterianism in the foyer of the Jordan Street entrance to the sanctuary.

CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN by Sitters' Registry and church volunteers. Nursery: Room CE-106; Extended Session during 11:00 a.m. worship for ages 2 yrs.—3 yrs.: Room CE-105 and The Worship Center for ages 4 yrs.—first grade: Room CE-113.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP! Bibles are available for use during worship; they are found at the end of every pew. We also provide **Worship Bags** designed for children elementary age and younger. The worship bags can be found in the narthex and at the front entrances to the sanctuary. Please return them after the service.

THE POEM on the bulletin cover is by Wendell Berry, "The Peace of Wild Things," Collected Poems: 1957-1982, New York, North Point Press, 1984, 69.



A Service for the Worship of God
 Eleven O'Clock
 March 27, 2011
 Third Sunday in Lent

When despair for the world grows in me
 and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear
 of what my life and my children's lives may be, I
 go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his
 beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
 I come into the peace of wild things
 who do not tax their lives with forethought of
 grief. I come into the presence of still water.
 And I feel above me the day-blind stars
 waiting with their light. For a time
 I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

-Wendell Berry

THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT
 Richard C. Johnson—March 17, 2011
We express sincere sympathy to Betsy Fritze and family in the death of her brother-in-law, and we rejoice with them in the assurance of resurrection.

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Session Ministry Moderators:

John Frierson	Administration	johnfrierson60@yahoo.com
John Guth	Church Facilities	johnguth@bellsouth.net
Rick LaBorde	Outreach	claborde@wpsump.com
David Oliver	Stewardship	dmo@rcco.com
Lynn Chance	Congregational Life	LWChance@att.net
Robert Folsom	Adult	robertfolsom@lendersoption.net
David Butterfield	Youth	david@msrlaw.com
Anna Gnann	Children	annagnann@yahoo.com
George Fritze	Evangelism	kinggpf@yahoo.com
Bruce Henderson	Worship	bhenderson@highlandclinic.com
Lisa Schrott	Communications	lschro@lsuhsc.edu
Julie Blewer	Staff Committee	jblewer@djslawfirm.com

Church Staff:

Pendleton B. Peery	Pastor
Bryan L. McDowell	Associate Pastor
Sarah Cooper Searight	Associate Pastor
Hollice S. Watson	Organist/Choir Director
Lindsey Wells Peery	Director of Children's Ministries
Cindy K. Natale	Director, First Presbyterian Day School
Rebecca L. Mayfield	PCHAS Director, Child and Family Program
Ginger Collier	Communications Director
Peggy E. Sartin	Administrative Coordinator
Susan B. Whaley	Church Secretary
Lona L. Lockard	Staff Secretary
George L. Beaner III	Maintenance Coordinator
Jeff A. McKenzie	Sexton
Sherry L. Odom	Housekeeper
Lillie M. Sutton	Housekeeper

Our Mission

Responding to God's grace and building upon the strength of our Reformed tradition, we, the members of First Presbyterian Church, seek to: Proclaim joyfully the Good News, revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; live as a welcoming and nurturing community of faith through worship, prayer, study and fellowship; and serve others - at home and beyond our community with love, compassion, respect, justice and mercy, in the name of Jesus Christ and after His example. May God empower us by the Holy Spirit to fulfill our call to be God's people.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 Let us worship God.