



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Sunday in Lent

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Jan Roth, liturgist

February 22, 2026

Andrew Morris, organist

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Pads: Please help us maintain good communication with all our members and guests by completing the Friendship Register as it is passed from the end of each pew. Please let us know the best way to communicate with you. Be sure to greet folks new to you at the end of worship!

Cards of Encouragement: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate and we will send them out in the mail.

Introit

Sing of God Made Manifest
SALZBURG

Chancel Choir
Adrian Hartsough, director

Call to Worship

One: The good news of the gospel is:

All: Manna in the desert, water turned into wine, love after loss, forgiveness after pain.

One: The good news of the gospel is:

All: Release for the captive, hope for the hopeless, mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.

One: So come on in. There's no time to waste! This surprising, good news is here for you.

All: Let us worship this good-news God.

* Hymn of Praise

Sing of God Made Manifest
SALZBURG

Glory to God #156

* Call To Confession

Jan Roth, liturgist

One: You may have heard, "All is fair in love and war," or "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

But God says, "Forgive seventy times seven." God says, "I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." God says, "Turn the other cheek." God's mercy catches us by surprise. So with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer. Let us be surprised by God's grace all over again. Friends, let us pray:

* Prayer of Confession

Jan Roth, liturgist

Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.

But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine - surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours?

We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.

* Silent Prayers of Confession

* Pouring the Water

* Words of Forgiveness

Jan Roth, liturgist

One: God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising. God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?" the answer is and always will be: of course, of course,

of course. This is the good news of the gospel. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* **Passing the Peace**

Jan Roth, liturgist

One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)

* **Hymn**

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

Prayer of Illumination

Jan Roth, liturgist

Holy One, it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed. It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it. It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst. So as we turn to your text today, we pray, surprise us. Speak to us. Move through us. Draw us closer to your good news. We wait with bated breath. Amen.

First Gospel Reading

John 2:1-11

Jan Roth, liturgist

Special Music

Almighty God
LARRY NICKEL

Chancel Choir
Adrian Hartsough, director
Andrew Morris, piano

Second Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-32

Sermon

"The Good News Catches Us by Surprise"

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Hymn

As the Wind Song
WAIRUA TAPU

Glory to God #292

Choir will sing verse 1, Congregation will join and sing verses 1 and 2

Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer

(as translated by the Maori people)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Call to Offertory

Offering

Andrew Morris, organ

* **Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Glory to God #606

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heav'nly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

* **Prayer of Dedication**

* **Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* **Closing Hymn**

What Is the World Like (verses 1,2,3,5)
NEW WORLD

Glory to God #771
Andrew Morris, organist

* **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Andrew Morris, organist

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

Welcome!

We encourage everyone to come as you are, be who you are, and be in community with us! Whether you are joining us virtually or in-person; we are happy to have you with us anytime! If you are new to First Presbyterian Church, please let us know you are here by signing the **Friendship Pad**. If you are worshipping with us online either live or recorded please **email us at linda@firstpreslawrence.org** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are interested in membership, please talk to Pastor Helen.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Ken Blair** is having knee replacement surgery on Monday, Feb. 23 at LMH. Prayers for a complete recovery.
- **Betty Thomas, Joy Laird's mother**, is receiving hospice care at Presbyterian Manor. Prayers please.
- **Judy Lebestky** died February 7 here in Lawrence. Services will be at 11 am on Saturday, Feb. 28 at Warren-McElwain.
- **Diana Schoneweis' great nephew, Luke (11)**, is dealing with brain cancer and all the treatments that brings
- **Myron Shipley** took a fall that injured his back and also caused a brain bleed. Myron is back at LMH recovering and getting stronger. Prayers please.
- **George Crump** asks for our prayers as he navigates life issues.
- **Joan Snodgrass** is in rehab in Overland Park after a fall at her home.
- **Kathryn Roblee** could use our prayers as she receives some rehab for strength and prepares for hip replacement on March 2.

- Please keep **Ruthanne Stucky, Mother of Alisa Stucky**, in your prayers as she undergoes treatment for cancer.
- **Sammie Locke** has entered hospice care at Bridge Haven where she lives.
- **Angela Randall's sister has a cancer diagnosis**. Angela teaches for First 5 Years.
- Please keep **Cyndy Glogau and her family** (of First 5 Years) in your prayers as they work on health issues.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, is facing serious health challenges.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- **Prayers for our pastor and church leaders**, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.

Birthdays in the Congregation

February 24

Brooks Christenson
Paul Judd

February 25

Chris Heider

February 26

Bob Silipigni

February 27

Joyce Rankin

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Larry Schlosser, Mark Shiflett, Pat McAlister

Greeters: Eva Alley

South Door Greeter: Judy Wilson

Offering: Melinda Roblee Fischer, Marilyn Heikes

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Julie Simon

Deacon Family Groups - 2026

A-B	Dorothy Devlin	Lf-Me	Deborah Norwood
C-Di	Lois Dutcher	Mf-N	Becky May
Dj-F	Sandy Groene	O-R	Diana Schoneweis
G-Ha	Melinda Fischer	S-Si	Charles Tuttle
Hb-J	Lucille Eggenberger	Sj-To	Mary Parkinson
K-Le	Linda Longino	Tj-Z	Nikki Barcomb

Calendar

February 22

9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
9:15 am	Lenten Study
10:30 am	Worship

February 23

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm	FPC Staff Meeting
2:00 pm	Pastor Helen Class
6:00 pm	First 5 Years Board Meeting
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

February 24

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
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1:00 pm	Small World Classes
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February 25	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
10:30 am	Grieving Together
7:00 pm	Troop 59 Boy Scout Meeting
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

February 26

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
5:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting

February 27

9:00 am	First 5 Year's Classes
10:00 am	Men's Group

March 1

9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
9:15 am	The Grace of Les Miserables
9:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am	Worship
2:00 pm	Brownie Troop 5621
5:00 pm	Youth Card Making Party

Youth Sponsored Activities

Children Sunday School

• Sunday School Classes for Children

- Our Children gather for fun and adventure in Room 14 at 9:15 am. Everyone is welcome to be a part of the fun!

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- **Lenten Study** - Beginning Sunday, February 22, Pastor Helen will offer a Lenten Study on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in the Fireside Room. The class is called *The Grace of Les Misérables*. We will focus on the story of Victor Hugo's book and subsequent movies and musicals which challenge us to wrestle with the nature of grace, the fault of unwavering justice, the tragedy of poverty, the victory of love, the struggle for justice and ultimately hope.

Pastor Helen's Monday Class is meeting on Mondays at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. They are currently studying the Lord's Prayer. Everyone is welcome!



Lenten Theme: Jesus' words are easily distorted and sanitized in our modern world. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it's not necessarily comfortable. Jesus' ministry can be described as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be. Can we be "good news" people in a world too often burdened by bad news? This Lent we will focus on what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment

for the hungry, nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—all of which are meant to be very good news for us all.

We started the Season of Lent last week with Ash Wednesday. Pick up one of our Lenten Devotional Booklets in the Narthex and follow along week by week. The theme is, "Tell Me Something Good" and will challenge you to see, hear, and feel some good news especially in a time when we all could benefit from something good!

With the appearance of ICE officers in our neighborhood, you might benefit from some of the information shared by our Matthew 25 group about how to help and to learn about your rights. If you are on Facebook you might look for the Sanctuary Alliance and "friend" them for real time updates. Thank you for your care for our neighbors and especially our friends in Small World. We received several calls alerting us to the situation on Tuesday.