



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Third Sunday in Lent

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Linda Maxey, liturgist

March 8, 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

My Life Flows On
HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

Chancel Choir
Adrian Hartsough, director

Call to Worship

One: Tell me something good!

All: God loves you more than you could imagine.

One: Tell me something good!

All: God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

One: Tell me something good!

All: God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

One: This is good news indeed!

All: Let us worship our compassionate God.

* **Hymn of Praise**

A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar
HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

Glory to God #201

* **Call To Confession**

Linda Maxey, liturgist

One: Family of faith, we long to love others as God loves us, but that work is easier said than done. We lose our way. We become distracted. We grow fearful. We need God's grace. Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and abundantly given. So, join me in the Prayer of Confession. Join me in being transformed.

* **Prayer of Confession**

Linda Maxey, liturgist

Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat? Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book? God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

* **Silent Prayers of Confession**

* **Pouring the Water**

* **Words of Forgiveness**

Linda Maxey, liturgist

One: Faith family, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God's back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

All: We are seen. We are forgiven. We are invited to try again. Thanks be to God for this unending love.

- * **Passing the Peace** Linda Maxey, 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** GLORIA PATRI
Glory Be to the Father
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** Linda Maxey, liturgist
Good news God, speak louder than the news updates. Speak louder than our mental distractions.
Speak louder than our anger and louder than our fear. God, speak loudly to us today, because we long to hear your good news once more. With hope we pray, amen.
- First Gospel Reading** Linda Maxey, liturgist
 Luke 7:36-50
- Special Music** Chancel Choir
Adrian Hartsough, director
Sound a Mystic Bamboo Song
 SOMOS UNO
- Second Gospel Reading** Linda Maxey, liturgist
 Matthew 25:35-40
- Sermon** Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison
*"The Good News Is:
 Great Love for God and Neighbor"*
- Hymn** Glory to God #762
When the Poor Ones
 EL CAMINO
- 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** Chancel Choir
Adrian Hartsough, director
Andrew Morris, organ
Were You There
 MARY McDONALD, arr.
- * **Doxology** Glory to God #606
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
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**

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound
MCKEE

Glory to God #766
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.

- **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.
- **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.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Kristi McAlister** has been admitted to KU Med with a spread of cancer and other issues. Prayers for both Kristi and her mother Pat McAlister.
- **Kathryn Roblee's** hip replacement surgery has been postponed. This is very disappointing for her so please keep your prayers coming. Thank you.
- **Ken Blair** had knee replacement surgery on Feb. 23 at LMH. Prayers for a complete recovery.
- **Betty Thomas, Joy Laird's mother**, is receiving hospice care at Presbyterian Manor. Prayers please.
- **Diana Schoneweis' great nephew, Luke (11)**, is dealing with brain cancer and all the treatments that brings.
- **Myron Shipley** is home and recovering from his fall. 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.
- 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.

Birthdays in the Congregation

March 10	March 12
Joy Trollman	Debby Ziegler
March 11	Conner Morrison
Susie Emert	March 13
	Sarah Freese
	Claire Lindemyer

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Jim Rumsey, Jennifer Tuttle
Greeters: Carol Smith, Sandy Groene
South Door Greeter: Jan Poulsen
Offering: Melinda R. Fischer, Erinn Barcomb-Peterson
Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson
Bag Brigade Volunteer: Linda Longino

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

March 8	
8:45 am	Presby Pickers Rehearsal
9:15 am	Children's Sunday School

9:15 am The Grace of Les Miserables
10:30 am Worship
12:30 pm Brownie Troop 5621

March 9

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

March 10

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm Small World Classes
6:00 pm Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting
6:30 pm Session Meeting

March 11

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

March 12

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm Small World Classes
6:30 pm PW Ruth Circle

March 13

10:00 am Men's Group

March 15

9:15 am The Grace of Les Misérables
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am BINGO! And lunch!

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** - Pastor Helen is offering 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.

Youth Sponsored Activities

- **BINGO! On Sunday, March 15**, the Youth and Fellowship Committee are teaming up to host BINGO. Meet in Fellowship Hall following worship at 11:30 am. Bring an appetizer, snack or dish to share for lunch. Come check out our new prize cabinet and maybe win a game (or two) and pick your prize.

Bring a friend to join in the fun and win prizes!



Pastor Helen's Monday Class is meeting on Mondays at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. On March 2 we started a new study on the history of religion in the US. This is a class Helen taught at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M college. We will survey the history of religion in America and its impact on social reform, politics and intellectual life. It will offer an opportunity to study the religions of the world, and the influence faith and religion have exercised in American history. 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.