



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

March 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.

Choral Introit

The Old Rugged Cross
GEORGE BENNARD

Chancel Choir
Adrian Hartsough, director

Call to Worship

One: Welcome to the weary and the worn.

All: Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

One: Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

All: Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

One: Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

All: Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

One: Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

All: This is God's house.

One: You can make yourself at home here.

All: Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

* **Hymn of Praise**

God of Grace and God of Glory
CWM RHONDDA

Glory to God #307

* **Call To Confession**

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

One: Jesus once said to a crowd, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone."
Friends, none of us are without sin. None of us get it right all the time. None of us can get by without God's grace. In the Prayer of Confession, we acknowledge this truth. We put down our stones and we turn to God for forgiveness. Join me in this act of transformation. Let us pray together:

* **Prayer of Confession**

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules. We love clear answers. We love right and wrong. We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way. You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation. You prioritize mercy over legality. You prioritize people over tradition. You prioritize love over everything. Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters. Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you. Forgive us. Soften our hearts. Root us in mercy, justice, and love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray.

* **Silent Prayers of Confession**

* **Pouring the Water**

* **Words of Forgiveness**

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

One: Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: Our God is a God of mercy. Our God is a God of compassion. Our God is a God of grace. We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way. Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. Amen.

- * **Passing the Peace** Jim Rumsey, 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** Jim Rumsey, liturgist
Holy One, when you speak, we don't want to miss it. When you bend down and write in the dirt, when you move through the trees, when you wake with the dawn, when you tug on our heart, or whisper into our dreams, we don't want to miss it. So today we pray, clear out the cobwebs in our ears. Quiet the steady stream of thoughts marching through our minds. Open up space in our hearts so that we can receive your word for us today. With hope we pray. Amen.
- First Gospel Reading** John 8:2-11 Jim Rumsey, liturgist
- Special Music** Chancel Choir
Fairest Lord Jesus
 DEREK HAKES, arr. CRAIG COURTNEY Dr. Adrian Hartsough, director
Maddie James, soloist
- Second Gospel Reading** Matthew 23:23
- Sermon** Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison
*"The Good News Is:
 Rooted in Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness"*
- Hymn** Glory to God #802
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
 ST. COLUMBA
- 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.
- Minute for Mission** Church Workday Jim Rumsey
- Call to Offertory**
- Offering** Andrew Morris, organ
- * **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**

May the God of Hope Go with Us (3 times)
ARGENTINA

Glory to God #765
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

- **Ann McMillian**, mother of **Annette Camlin**, is receiving palliative care at her home in Bellevue, NE. Prayers for her and Annette's sister, Kerri Campbell who is their Mom's primary caregiver with health issues of her own.
- **Grace Nganga's** sister died in Africa. Prayers for the family as they mourn this unexpected loss.
- **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** is receiving rehab for a hip replacement at Presbyterian Manor. Prayers for healing and strength.
- **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 (12)**, is dealing with brain cancer and all the treatments that brings.
- **Myron Shipley** has moved to live with his son in Arkansas. He will be receiving hospice care there.

He would love to hear from us with cards and notes. Call the church office for his address.

- **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.
- **Sammie Locke** is receiving hospice care at Bridge Haven where she lives.
- Please keep **Ruthanne Stucky, Mother of Alisa Stucky**, in your prayers as she undergoes treatment for cancer.
- **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.

Birthdays in the Congregation

March 24	March 26
Jean Givens	Karen Schorno
March 25	March 28
Dave Kyner	Joyce Carroll

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Vic and Dianne Sisk, Heather Soper
Greeters: Jan Poulsen
South Door Greeter: Judy Wilson
Offering: Marilyn Heikes, Erinn Barcomb-Peterson
Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson
Bag Brigade Volunteer: Margie Dyck

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 22

8:45 am	Presby Pickers Rehearsal
9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
9:15 am	The Grace of Les Misérables
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Statement of Witness Discussion Grp
1:30 pm	Girl Scout Day Camp Cmte

March 23

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
11:00 am	Mission Committee Meeting
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

March 24

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes

March 25

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
6:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

March 26

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

March 27

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

March 28

9:00 am	All Church Workday
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March 29

9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
9:15 am	The Grace of Les Misérables
9:30 am	Chancel Choir Practice
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Statement of Witness Discussion
2:00 pm	Sierra Club Speaker

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

- **Easter Breakfast** - FPC Youth will host breakfast on Easter Sunday beginning at 9:30 am. This is a biscuits and gravy fundraiser for the Youth. Your donation will help fund Youth Group activities. Come have a great breakfast before the Easter Worship. If you can volunteer supplies or help, please contact Kelly at 785-979-2713. See you there!

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!

All Church Work Day is March 28 The Property Committee would like your assistance to spruce up the church, especially for our Easter Guests. We will be polishing the brass, vacuuming the Sanctuary seat cushions, and polishing the wood in the Sanctuary. We will be clearing out some spaces in the stairwell and the basement. The Boy Scouts will join us to work on cleaning up outside – trimming, picking up sticks, cleaning up the playground fence, spreading mulch on the flower beds and weeding as needed. There is something for everyone and we need everyone to help us get it done. Join us on Saturday, March 28 from 9 to noon. Tools and supplies will be provided – or bring your own if you like.

Palm Sunday – Join us on March 29 to begin Holy Week. We will have palms for those who would like to wave them as they enter the Sanctuary and remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem singing Hosana!