FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Joan Golden, liturgist

March 15, 2026

Prelude Andrew Morris, organist

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 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* Westminster Ringers
ARNOLD B. SHERMAN, arr. Carol Fleeger, director

Call to Worship

One: God loves the field mouse.
All: God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.
One: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.
All: God loves the child who rocks and claps.
One: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.
All: God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.
One: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.
All: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.
One: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.
All: There is no bit of creation that God does not love.
One: So let us worship this good-news God!

* **Hymn of Praise** *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* ***Glory to God*** #69
HERE I AM

* **Call To Confession** Joan Golden, liturgist

One: Family of Faith, every week we pray the Prayer of Confession, because every week we need to be reminded of God's abundant grace. Every week we need to be reminded of God's love. Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change. So, join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation. Friends, let us pray:

* **Litany of Confession and Words of Forgiveness** Joan Golden, liturgist

One: God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."
All: Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.
One: Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
All: We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.
One: God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."
All: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.
One: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."
All: We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.
One: Fortunately for all of us, God also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."
All: By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved. May this good news change our lives! Amen.

* **Passing the Peace** Joan Golden, 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 Joan Golden, liturgist

Holy One, sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear. You say, "Love your enemy." "Turn the other cheek." "Care for the widow and the orphan." And we want to know: How? When? Where? Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we pray. Amen.

Gospel Reading Matthew 19:13-15 Joan Golden, liturgist

Special Music *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Westminster Ringers
CYNTHIA DOBRINSKI, arr. Carol Fleeger, director

Hebrew Bible Reading Deuteronomy 24:17-22

Sermon *"The Good News Is: Protection and Care for the Vulnerable"* Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Hymn *My Song Is Love Unknown* **Glory to God** #209
LOVE UNKNOWN

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 *Ride on King Jesus* Andrew Sanders, baritone
African-American Spiritual, arr. Hall Johneon. 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** *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* ***Glory to God*** #298
ABBOT'S LEIGH 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

- 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 had hip replacement surgery last Wednesday. She should be in rehab at the Manor now or soon. 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 (11), 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 has entered 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 16
Stephen Bradley

March 19
Joan Snodgrass
Sue Schmidt

March 21
Nancy Winslow

March 22
Ted Waiss
Kim Livingood

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Jim Rumsey, Jennifer Tuttle, Linda Burton
Greeters: Carol Smith, Sandy Groene
South Door Greeter: Judy Wilson
Offering: Marilyn Heikes, Larry Flottman
Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson
Bag Brigade Volunteer: Dede Dresser

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 15	
9:15 am	The Grace of Les Misérables
9:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	BINGO! And lunch!
March 16	
1:15 pm	FPC Staff Meeting
2:00 pm	Pastor Helen Class
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
March 17	
6:00 pm	Deacon Meeting
March 18	
5:00 pm	Personnel Meeting
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
March 19	
4:00 pm	Girl Scout Troop Meeting
March 20	
10:00 am	Men's Group
March 21	
10:30 am	Parkway Gardens HOA Annual Mtg
1:00 pm	Lawrence Tenants Townhall
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

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.

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal and Communion – On Thursday, April 2, at 5:30 pm, we will gather in Fellowship Hall to learn about the Jewish Seder Meal that was served to the Disciples at the Last Supper. How does this beautiful Jewish celebration of liberation connect with our Christian beliefs? At the end of the (mostly) symbolic meal we will share a pot-luck dinner, so please bring a dish to serve 8 to 10 people. Bring a friend because everyone is welcome to join us at FPC!