



First Presbyterian Church Sunday, March 23, 2025



Seeking the Faith – Sharing the Spirit - Serving God’s People

Join us on our faith journey as we seek to serve God, minister to our community, and love one another. Help us become an ever more inclusive church welcoming people from all backgrounds, abilities, and identities. Come and experience the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.



Order of Worship

Prelude

Sweet Hour of Prayer

arr. Heather Sorenson

Gathering for Worship

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd. There is nothing we lack.

All: God’s goodness and faithful love will pursue us all the days of our lives. Let us worship God.

*Hymn #353

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

*Call to Confession

Leader: Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden becomes visible and the shadows of our hearts become illumined by grace.

*Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, we do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Keep raising us from the deadliness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: This is the good news: as God’s forgiven people we will receive God’s goodness and mercy and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Giving of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all!

All: And also with you!

*Response #166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

v. 1 and 4

Anthem

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Williamson

Children’s Sermon:

Resurrection: Here’s Your Sign

Prayer for Illumination

Reader: Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ’s name, we pray. **Amen.**

New Testament Lesson

Luke 13:1-9 (NT p. 76)

**Please stand as you are able*

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 55:1-13 (OT p. 685)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Proclamation of the Word: If You're Stressed, It's Fine Dining We Suggest

***Affirmation of Faith:**

Leader: Together, let us confess our faith...

All: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. Amen.

***Hymn #167**

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Minute for Mission

Jane Swanson

Invitation to the Offering

Leader: Our lives overflow with the goodness of God.

Sharing what we have so abundantly received,
we now bring our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

Offertory

Twilight Prelude

Mike Springer

***#606 Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: O Lord, we long to live as children of light, doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ, who awakens those who sleep and raises those who are dead to new life. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer and Congregational Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Minister: We give thanks to God for these blessings.

All: Thanks be to God!

Minister: For all these people and all who are in need

All: Please hold your people near, O God!

Minister: God inspires us to pray, hears our prayers, and answers our prayers.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

Minister: Let us pray... *Silent Prayer*

Minister: Let us pray together...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #765**

May the God of Hope Go with Us

Announcements

Blessing

Minister: May the love of God pursue you, the light of Christ enfold you,
and the Holy Spirit keep you as you dwell in the house of the Lord your whole life long.

Postlude

Allegro Agitato Op. 105 No. 2

F. Burgmüller

Moment for Reflection:



Worship Assistants

Pam Holt- Greeter
Sue Bailey- Worship Assistant
Jiyeon Lee- Accompanist
Elwood Prest- AV Tech

Phyllis Beck- Head Usher
Tracy Prosser- Scripture Reader
Diane Cash- Zoom Greeter
Choir- Anthem

MARCH 23, 2025

10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary and via Zoom
Coffee Fellowship (Hosts: Rick and Dori)
Green Guardians-Lent Creation Care Discussion

MARCH 25, 2025

6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

MARCH 26, 2025

10:00 am Bible Study with Bill and J. P.
3:30 pm Bible Study with Pastor Kerry
5:30 pm Lenten Vespers via Zoom
6:30 pm Bible Study with Judy Beyler

MARCH 27, 2025

Noon Presbyterian Men

MARCH 30, 2025

10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary and via Zoom
Coffee Fellowship (Hosts: Keith and Judy)
Green Guardians-Lent Creation Care Discussion
1:00-3:00 pm Bowling at SI Bowl

Pastor Kerry's Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 10:00 am-1:00 pm

If you would like a visit—or if you know someone who needs a visit— please let Pastor Kerry or one of the Deacons know.

Church School meets downstairs in rooms 041 and 043. Parents can pick up their children after the service by using the stairway near Fellowship Hall. Enter the double wooden doors by the water fountains, go down the stairs and turn right to go through another set of doors.

ANOUNCEMENTS



Green Guardians will host Lent creation care discussions in the Lounge (fka Youth Room) each Sunday through April 6, 2025. Join us as we continue our fellowship. We will watch a short video followed by discussion lasting about 30 minutes.

 Don't miss the fun! Join us at **SI Bowl** Family Fun Center (Hwy 13 near Carterville) March 30, 2025, 1-3 pm. Further details are available in the March newsletter. Everyone is welcome (bowl, cheer, snack, visit)! It's a STRIKE!

Laundry Project has been selected for the Neighborhood Co-op's Wooden Nickel Program! From now until March 31, take a reusable bag or container when shopping at the Co-op to receive a wooden nickel, then drop the wooden nickel in the box by the register. For each wooden nickel placed in the box, the Co-op will donate 5¢ to the Laundry Project. The Co-op will match up to \$250 per organization and pass along any monetary donations.

Please, as you are able, continue to contribute financially to the life and ministry of the church through Sunday offerings, direct deposit, by sending checks in the mail, online at <http://www.firstpresdale.org> or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.



Joys and Concerns

Remember to Pray for:

- Those affected by natural disasters, threats of terrorism, mass shootings, and hate crimes
- Our National, State, Regional, and Community Leaders
- Areas of the world at war, peace in the Middle East
- Our Democracy in the face of social unrest and political polarization
- Transgender community and others under attack legislatively
- Those who are homeless, hungry, marginalized, underrepresented and in harm's way
- Military Service Members

Each week we pray for one of the Carbondale Interfaith Council faith communities.

This week, please pray for: **Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting**

The Mission/Ministry we are praying for this month: **Membership and Deacons**

Household Prayer: Morning

God, whenever the cup of gladness overflows, help me to recognize that it is filled with your goodness and mercy. In praise and anticipation, I begin this day, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

O Lord, I pray that you will improve my eyes of faith so that I can see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly tomorrow, and all my tomorrows. In the name of your Son, my Savior, I pray. Amen

#353 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*
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1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

#166 (v. 1, 4) *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*
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Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Luke 13:1-9 (NT p. 76)

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Isaiah 55:1-13 (OT p. 685)

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your

ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

#167 *Forty Days and Forty Nights*
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1 Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.

2 Shall not we your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?

3 Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint nor fail!

4 So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served you faithfully.

5 Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

#765 *May the God of Hope Go with Us*
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May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:

Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.