

ASSURANCE OF PARDON.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: grant us, O grant us your peace.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**All: And also with you.**

\* PEACE RESPONSE: *to the tune of "My Lord, What a Morning!"*  
**Peace be with my sisters. Peace be with my brothers.**  
**Oh, peace be with all people, for we all need peace at last, for we all need peace at last.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S TIME:

*Children who want to go to the Sunday School can follow the teachers to their room. Younger children may be dropped off at the nursery (ages 0-4), and all children should be picked up at their rooms following the service.*

\* HYMN #429: "As a Chalice Cast of Gold" *Inward Light*

THE PROPHETS: Isaiah 55:1-9 p. 685-686 OT

THE GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9 p. 76 NT

One: The Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

THE MESSAGE: "A Bit of Manure" Rev. Cynthia A. Weaver

*"He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.'" Luke 13:8*

\* GLORIA PATRI: John Weaver

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit: as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ever. A men, A - men. A - men!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

\* RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS: *1 Timothy 6: 18-19*

One: We are called to be generous and ready to share;  
**All: thus taking hold of that which is truly life.**

OFFERTORY: "Hide Not Thou Thy Face" Richard Farrant

Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord,  
 and cast not off thy servants in thy displeasure;  
 for we confess our sins unto thee,  
 and hide not our unrighteousness.  
 For thy mercy's sake,  
 deliver us from all our sin

\* DOXOLOGY:

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow.

Praise Christ, all crea-tures here be-low.

Praise Ho-ly Spi-rit ev-er-more!

Praise Tri-une God, whom we a-dore!

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION.

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *from the Confession of 1967*

The church confesses its faith when it bears a present witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ. The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to us commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering, so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. Amen.

\* HYMN #525: "Let Us Break Bread Together" *Spiritual*

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION.

*We invite you to come forward down the center aisle to receive communion, taking a piece of bread and leaving your cup in the cup racks at the back of each pew. If you wish to have communion brought to you, please indicate this by raising a hand to the servers walking in the aisles. All are welcome to receive communion at Christ's table.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOLLOWED BY THE LORD'S PRAYER.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us, this day, our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\* HYMN #314: "Longing for Light" *Christ, Be Our Light*

\* BENEDICTION.

\* CHORAL AMEN.

POSTLUDE: Fuga in B-flat major D. Buxtehude

***Join us after the service for coffee, cookies and fellowship time in the Narthex!***

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH:

- **During Lent**, Children will receive communion upstairs in their classrooms. If you would like your child to receive communion with you in the sanctuary, you are welcome to sign them out of Sunday School early.
- **Today in Adult Education** - "Lent through the Lens of Luke -Part 2"- We will continue our preparation for the joy of Easter by studying how Jesus prepared for his ministry and gathered his community. Each step of his ministry brought him closer to his death and resurrection, and with Pastor Cindy we will take a look at the steps we are taking to prepare.
- **Lenten Small Group Zoom gathering on Tuesdays:** A small group is meeting by Zoom every Tuesday evening between March 11 and Easter. We will meet at 7:00 and discuss the book, A Rhythm of Prayer by Sarah Bessey. Susan Van Sickle and Beth Patton will moderate the group so please contact them if you are interested in joining (stvsickle@aol.com or e\_patton@icloud.com)
- **Next Week in Adult Education** -"Lent through the Lens of Luke- Part 3" We will look at some of the parables Jesus used his teaching such as the Parables of the Rich Fool, the Dishonest Manager, and the Great Dinner, and, led by Pastor Cindy, we will consider how they applied to Jesus's time and to ours.
- **No Sunday School March 30** – Children are invited to worship with their families. Worship activity bags can be found in the Narthex.

### Our greeters today are:

Marilyn Ewing, Beth Patton, and Linda McLean.

### Our ushers today are:

Bob Kohut head, with Brad McFall, Kathy Lipinski, John Ullberg

### Today's flowers are given

to Margaret Shackell for her birthday from her family.

### We hold in our prayers:

David Brown; Jennifer Carlson; Donna Dauria;  
Harris Faulkner; Will Lloyd, Jeff Lovell;  
Vivian and Jim Russell; and Marj Smart.

- **Triennium in July:** Any youth or young adult 8th grade to age 24 interested in attending the PCUSA gathering of youth from all over the USA, please email [mylika.fpci@gmail.com](mailto:mylika.fpci@gmail.com) for more information.
- **Concert in our church, April 5:** The NYS Baroque and Pegasus Early Music will be performing Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 on Saturday, April 5, at 7:30pm here at our church. A pre-concert chat with the director begins at 6:45, who calls this "one of the most perfect pieces of music ever written." The concert includes period instruments such as cornettos, lutes, and theorbos. Tickets can be purchased at [NYSbaroque.com](http://NYSbaroque.com).
- **Participate in the church Directory:** Fill out a directory info sheet in the narthex during fellowship time or talk to Kirianne, Sara Carpenter, or Marilyn Ewing for more information.

*The righteous will answer [the Son of Humanity],  
"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food  
or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that  
we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you  
clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick, or in prison,  
and visited you?"*

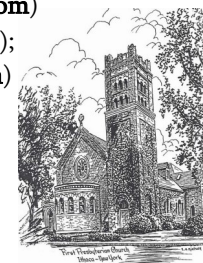
*And the king will answer them,  
"Truly I tell you, just as you did it for one of the least  
of these brothers and sisters of mine,  
you did it for me."*

*Matthew 25: 37-40*

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For more info, please visit our website at [www.firstpresithaca.org](http://www.firstpresithaca.org)  
and find us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ITHACA



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Following Christ's teachings,  
we are fully inclusive in  
membership and leadership.

[firstpresithaca.org](http://firstpresithaca.org)

A congregation proud  
to be PC(USA).

MARCH 23, 2025: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

## PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

*This service is being livestreamed. You can view services on our website.  
Please share your name in the Friendship Pads at the end of each pew.*

PRELUDE: Prelude in D minor F. Mendelssohn

WELCOME Rev. Kirianne E. Weaver

\* CALL TO WORSHIP: based on Psalm 63 Liturgist: Jake Midura

One: O God, you are our God, and we seek you.

All: **We thirst for you as in a dry and weary land where there  
is no water.**

One: We look upon you in the sanctuary,

All: **beholding your power and glory.**

One: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

All: **we praise you and will bless you as long as we live.**

One: Our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast,

All: **and when we meditate on you in the watches of the night,**

One: we praise you with joyful lips.

All: **We sing for joy, for you have been our help.**

One: Our souls cling to you; your right hand upholds us,

All: **and we gather now to worship you.**

\* HYMN #307: "God of Grace and God of Glory" Cwm Rhondda

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Most merciful God, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and  
deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We  
have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our  
neighbor as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, and forgive  
us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the  
glory of your holy name...**

*...A time for silent confession.*