

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 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 #693: **"Though I May Speak"** *Gift of Love*
 THE POETS: Psalm 103: 1-18 p. 554 OT
 THE EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 13 p. 175 NT
 One: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

THE MESSAGE: "Universal Love."
 Rev. Dr. Kenneth I Clarke, Sr.

*"Love is patient; love is kind; it is not envious, or boastful, or arrogant, or rude."
 - 1 Cor 13: 4-5*

* GLORIA PATRI:

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. Amen, 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: "Ave Verum" William Byrd (1540-1623)

Ave verum, corpus natum de Maria Virgine: vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine: cuius latus perforatum fluxit aqua et sanguine: esto nobis paegustatum, in mortis examine. O Jesu dulcis, O Jesu pie, O Jesu Fili Mariae, miserere mei. Amen.	Hail, the true body, born of the Virgin Mary: You who truly suffered and were sacrificed on the cross for the sake of humanity, from whose pierced side flowed water and blood: be for us a foretaste in the trial of death. O sweet Jesus, O merciful Jesus, O Jesus, son of Mary, have mercy upon me. Amen.
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* 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 #460: **"Break Thou the Bread of Life"** *Bread of Life*

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 #167: **"Forty Days and Forty Nights"** *Aus du Tiefe*

* BENEDICTION.

* CHORAL AMEN.

POSTLUDE: Fugue in D minor F. Mendelssohn

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

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH:

- **We welcome our guest preacher today:** Rev. Dr. Kenneth I. Clarke, Sr. is the recently retired director of the Tompkins County Office of Human Rights. Previously, he served as the director of Cornell United Religious Work from 2001-2017. He is married to Rev. Yolanda Clarke, a faculty member of SUNY Cortland's Health Department, and is the father of Fatima Banister and Ken, Jr. and grandfather of Priscilla.
- **Today in Adult Education:** The Rev. Dr. Kenneth I. Clarke, Sr., will address how Lent can serve as a centering moment amidst the turbulence of our current time. Dr. Clarke has preached and taught numerous times at First Presbyterian. We always look forward to his classes, and his willingness to once again engage the congregation.
- **Lenten Small Group Zoom Gathering starting this Tuesday:** A group is forming to meet 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 (stfansickle@aol.com or e_patton@icloud.com).
- **Lenten Gathering this Wednesday at 6:30pm:** Join us for a Lenten Soup Supper in Dodds Hall at 6:30pm on March 12th! There will be post-dinner discussions inspired by A Rhythm of Prayer - but ALL are welcome, and pre-reading is not required. There will also be the opportunity to sign up for ongoing discussion groups about the book. Sign up in the Narthex at Fellowship Time if you're able to contribute food!

Our greeters today are:

Marilyn Ewing, Beth Patton, and Linda McLean.

Our ushers today are:

Jeanette Miller, head; with Sandra Greene, Becca Hilts, and Stella Martz.

Today's flowers are given in honor of Harris Faulkner's birthday, by Stella Martz.

We hold in our prayers:

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

- **Next Week in Adult Education** - "Lent through the Lens of Luke - Part 1" - We will begin our four week Bible study of the Gospel of Luke and how the people prepared for the coming of the Lord, for his ministry, for his death, and for his resurrection. This first class will focus on the role of John the Baptizer. Join us and Pastor Cindy as we prepare to walk to Jerusalem with Jesus
- **March 15-16 Youth Group Lock-in:** youth grades 6-12 join us in Dodds hall at 5:30 for a fun Exodus themed lock in! Bring a friend and your sleeping bag as we enjoy a night of games, adventures and yummy treats! Please RSVP by March 3 to mylika.fpci@gmail.com
- **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 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?"*

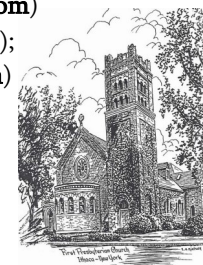
*And the king will answer them,
"Truly I tell you, just as you did it for one of the least
of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did it for me."*

Matthew 25: 37-40

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

firstpresithaca.org

A congregation proud
to be PC(USA).

MARCH 9, 2025: THE FIRST 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 and Fugue in E Minor J. S. Bach

WELCOME: Rev. Kirianne E. Weaver

* CALL TO WORSHIP: from "Every Moment Holy" Deacon Tom Owens

One: O Lord our God, who called us into being,
All: who was our first parent and teacher of love:
One: let our inability to perfectly love you
All: drive us daily to the arms of Christ,
One: wherein the enormity of your mercy -
All: and the scandal of such grace lavished upon us -
One: may birth in us a new and greater affection for you,
All: and a new and greater desire to serve,
One: that our weaknesses may be made perfect in your strength,
All: and even our imperfections may serve your glory.
One: We love you, Lord, for you have heard our voice,
All: listened to our pleas for mercy,
One: and inclined your ear to our cries.
All: Therefore we shall call upon your name,
One: as long as we all shall live.
All: Let us worship God!

* HYMN #165: "The Glory of These Forty Days" *Erhalt Uns, Herr*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Rev. Cynthia A. Weaver

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.