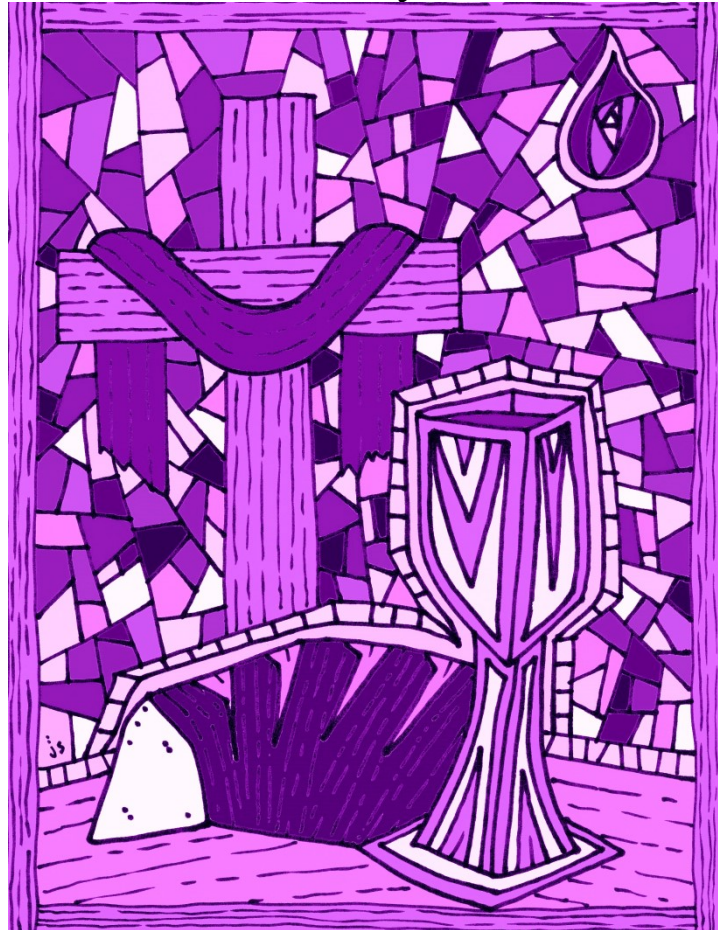


First Presbyterian Church of Inverness
March 3, 2024
Third Sunday in Lent



— *Gathering* —

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT

“WAYFARING STRANGER”

GEORGE SCHUMACHER

OPENING SENTENCES

FROM PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

² **Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.**

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

⁸ **the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.**

Let us worship God.

We worship God’s holy name.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You have revealed to us the sacrifices of the Lenten journey as we go. Here in the middle, as we sojourn, we look back at how far we have come and forward towards what is to come. Beloved God, you call us to stop and to be, finding joy where we are. You show us the beauty of the sky above, the firmness of the earth below. We breathe in the air of a new day, remember the rain along the way, and cling to the dreams of our nights. We stop and give thanks because we are alive and you are our God! Amen.

*HYMN #307

GOD OF GRACE, AND GOD OF GLORY

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

O Christ who chased the money changers from the temple, chase the greed from our lives and our hearts. As you overturned the tables, O Lord, overturn the systems in our world that contribute to cycles of poverty and oppression. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we contribute to the world's brokenness. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy. Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again. (silence). Let all God's children say, **Amen.**

Listen, the time has come at last. Look, now is the day of salvation! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*GLORIA PATRI #581

"GLORY BE TO THE FATHER"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM

"I CAN ONLY IMAGINE"

GEORGE SCHUMACHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

²²**For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** ²

⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 2:13-22

SERMON

PASTOR LOU ELLEN HARTLEY

HYMN OF PREPARATION *WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS*

VERSES 1 & 2, 4

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN #233**

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

VERSES 3 & 4

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

POSTLUDE

Church Staff and Contact Information

Church office 352-637-0770, fpcinvoffice@gmail.com

Lou Ellen Hartley, Pastor – revhartley1000@gmail.com

Lori Wolford, Dir. of Outreach & Christian Education, dcelori.fpc@gmail.com

Lesa Shelton, Music Director

Marina Veiler, Organist

Danny Birstler, Sound Booth Coordinator

Vicki Oorbeck, Child Care Attendant

Laura Morrow, Office Administrator

Bruce Cook, Prayer Warrior

Danny Sullivan, Facilities Manager

Gary Oorbeck, Grounds |Maintenance |Security

Treasurer – fpcinvFinance@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday

Closed on Friday

Our Elders

Class of 2024: Caryl Birstler (clerk), Alicia Downing, George Schumacher, Carolyn Smith

Class of 2025: Barbara Dee Cawley, Linda Cridland, Jerry Reynolds, Leah Robinson

Class of 2026: Barbara Caudill, Bruce Cook, Lesa Shelton, John Morrison

Our Deacons

Class of 2024: Wilma Abel, Sandy Boyett, Ron Shafer, Mary Beth Smith

Class of 2025: Nancy Foley, Tony Scott, Phoebe Schumacher, Amanda Morrison

Class of 2026: Ray Birstler, Nancy Harris, Adele Wardrup

WORSHIP FLOWERS

Worship Flowers are given today by the Russ Hackett family
in loving memory of Barbara Joy Hackett.

Nursery and Sunday School for All Ages

Infants and Pre-K
Elementary (K-5)
Secondary (6-12)
Men's Bible Study
Adults

CE Hall Room 2
CE Hall Room 4
CE Hall, Room 5
Parlor
Conference Room

Ms. Vicki
Ms. Mary Beth
Ms. Phoebe and Mr. Ron
Rev. Dr. Mark Scott
Pastor Hartley

SAVE THE DATE

We know it is early, but so is Easter this year! Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be **Saturday, March 23rd at 10:00 a.m.** This is the Saturday before Palm Sunday. We are hoping this date helps to bring in extra folks from our community at the beginning of Holy Week.

FAMILY CEDARKIRK RETREAT

Our annual family retreat at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center in Lithia will be held on **Friday, March 8th through Sunday, March 10th**. The cost per person is \$160.00. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. For more information, see Lori Wolford.

CASA LOVE OFFERING FOR LENT

This year for Lent, the Outreach Committee invites the congregation to participate in a weekly collection to support the families at CASA in need. CASA is Citrus County's Abuse Shelter which helps get those facing domestic violence to safety. Our church has been a long-time supporter of CASA. Let us celebrate Lent through this special Love Offering. For more information on CASA see <https://casaf1.org/>. Each week, a different item of need will be collected.

March 3rd: Toothpaste/toothbrushes

March 10th: Toilet Paper

March 17th: Dish soap/sponges

March 24th: Lotion

RESTORING HOPE, FEEDING THE HUNGRY, EMPOWERING THE OPPRESSED

For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

We will be collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing from **February 14 – March 31**. Make a note on your check that it is for One Great Hour of Sharing before you drop it into the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity.

WOW DINNER

March 13th is our "Wearin' O' Th' Green" WOW Potluck Dinner at **5:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

MEAL TRAIN

As the Deacons reach out to help our congregation, a new need has come to the surface. As members face hospitalizations or treatment issues, or just trying to cope with something unexpected, meals may not seem easy to make. An email group called “Meal Train” can be arranged for a daily meal delivery to a designated member. Deacons, as well as Elders AND church members are encouraged to sign up once, twice or whatever fits their plans. A hot meal is then delivered to a person in need. This will be an ongoing effort as a need arises. For questions or to sign up, contact Ray or Caryl Birstler at 352-400-9238. Sandy Boyette for The Deacons

SINGLES EATING TOGETHER (SET)

SET will meet at Café Aromas, 299 E Gulf to Lake Hwy, Lecanto, on **Wednesday, March 6th at 4:30 p.m.** Sign up in the narthex. See you there!

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

All men are invited to join the Men’s Fellowship for breakfast on **Wednesday, March 6th at 8:30 a.m., in The Gathering Place.** If you would like to help prepare breakfast, be there at 8:00 a.m.

DON’T MISS IT!

Don’t miss the Citrus Community Concert Choir Spring Concert, “*Celebrate With Spirituals*”, on **March 24, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. Admission at the door is \$10 for adults and students are admitted for free; cash or check is accepted. Ticket sales fund a scholarship to a deserving Citrus County student studying music at the college level.

HAVING A BALL

Each month, from February through August, the church family collects a different item for our Operation Christmas Child shoebox mission project. The item for **March, 2024**, is one that any child around the world can turn into a game – i.e. a ball! Just make sure your donated ball is fairly small and can fit into a shoebox. Or a deflated ball with a pump would be fine. Even tennis balls are a treasure. Bring your ball donations to Heidi’s “cubbyhole” near the church office. Our September kick-off packing party will bring all our shoebox stuff out for filling those shoeboxes for 2024. Thank you, church family, for year-round “thinking shoeboxes”. Over 6,000 children over the past 20 years have received a shoebox of love from our church family. It’s a world-wide mission.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

On the **2nd Wednesday of each month**, you are invited to meet to talk and socialize. Maybe you have a place you visited and want to tell us about it or share a household hint. Have questions? Maybe we can brainstorm an answer. Our first meeting will be in the **Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. on March 13th.**

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Communion Sunday

Third Sunday of Lent

9:00 Sunday School

9:00 Men's Bible Discussion - Parlor

10:00 Worship Service

Monday, March 4, 2024

5:30 Boy Scouts

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

10:00 Prayer Gathering – Parlor

11:00 Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

*8:30 Blessings

8:30 Men's Fellowship Breakfast

9:00 Staff Meeting

11:00 Grief Support - Parlor

4:30 SET – Café Aromas, Lecanto

Thursday, March 7, 2024

*8:30 Blessings

9:00 – 2:00 Presbytery Meeting at Beth-El

10:00 Bible Study – Fellowship Hall

7:00 Theology & Wine

Friday, March 8, 2024

Cedarkirk Retreat

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Cedarkirk Retreat

10:00 CCCC Rehearsal – Sanctuary

6:00 Cahal Dunne Concert

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Cedarkirk Retreat

9:00 Sunday School

9:00 Men's Bible Discussion - Parlor

10:00 Worship

11:00 Worship Committee

*Outside Groups

A SPECIAL

Thank You

TO THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ushers

Mary Palmer

Toni Scott

Robert Ramsey

Ask Me Desk

Sandy Boyette

Dennis Cleerdin



ON THE DAY I CALLED,
you answered me,
YOU INCREASED MY
strength of soul.

NOTES