

*First Presbyterian Church of Inverness*  
*March 10, 2024*  
*Fourth Sunday in Lent*



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**INTROIT**

*“I LOVE YOU, LORD”*

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

**FROM PSALM 107**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.** Let us thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. **And let's offer thanksgiving and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Good and loving God, in Jesus you know the paths your children walk and all that can frighten and discourage us. Make your presence real to us as we make our journey, that at any time and in every circumstance we may remember your blessings – and rejoice! Amen.**

## \*HYMN #610

### *O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING*

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my  
2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and  
3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new  
4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -  
5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my  
bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the  
life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en  
sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the  
now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!  
sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.  
to re - jice; the poor in heart be - lieve.  
earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.  
saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

## \*CONFESSION AND PARDON

**By the gift of your grace we are saved, O God, from all that separates us from you. Still, we would rather believe that we can earn your love. Still, we would rather believe that we are in ultimate control. Forgive us when we do not recognize the radical gift of your grace; have mercy when we fail or refuse to share that grace with another. 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.**

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**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*In your steadfast love, O Lord, have mercy on us.*

**ANTHEM**

*“TRUST IN THE LORD AND DO GOOD”*

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT**

NUMBERS 21:4-9

**EPISTLE LESSON**

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.

<sup>3</sup>**All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ**

—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

<sup>10</sup>**For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

JOHN 3:14-21

**SERMON**

*“HOPE AND FAITH”*

PASTOR LOU ELLEN HARTLEY

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

TRADITIONAL APOSTLES' CREED

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN #438**

*ROCK OF AGES*



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands.  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling;  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side which flowed  
Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.  
all for sin could not a - tone. Thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.



**\*BLESSING AND CHARGE**

**POSTLUDE**

### **Church Staff and Contact Information**

**Church office 352-637-0770, [fpcinvoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fpcinvoffice@gmail.com)**

Lou Ellen Hartley, Pastor – [revhartley1000@gmail.com](mailto:revhartley1000@gmail.com)

Lori Wolford, Dir. of Outreach & Christian Education, [dcelori.fpc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, Toni Scott, Phoebe Schumacher, Amanda Morrison

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

### **WORSHIP FLOWERS**

This is the day that the Lord has made! Rejoice and be glad in it! Psalm 118:24

The Savory Endowment

## **Nursery and Sunday School for All Ages**

**Infants and Pre-K**

CE Hall Room 2

Ms. Vicki

**Elementary (K-5)**

CE Hall Room 4

Ms. Mary Beth

**Secondary (6-12)**

CE Hall, Room 5

Ms. Phoebe and Mr. Ron

**Men's Bible Study**

Parlor

Rev. Dr. Mark Scott

**Adults**

Conference Room

Pastor Hartley

***Daylight Savings Time began at 2:00 a.m. this morning! Remember that your clocks need to spring forward one hour, though your cell phone will likely automatically adjust.***

### **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://casafll.org/>. Each week, a different item of need will be collected.

March 10<sup>th</sup>: Toilet Paper

March 17<sup>th</sup>: Dish soap/sponges

March 24<sup>th</sup>: Lotion

### **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

On the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>**.

### **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.

### **WOW DINNER**

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

### **WHAT'S NEXT**

The Thursday Bible Study Group will complete their great adventure in the Book of Hebrews this week. After 19 weekly sessions, we've explored every chapter and verse. So, what's next? Come join the group anytime—just bring your Bible. On the **21<sup>st</sup>**, we'll discuss our next Biblical emphasis. We meet Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Homemade cookies and goodies are an extra incentive! Y'all come!!

### **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. 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.

## **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.

### **HAVE YOU HEARD?**

Our church Fellowship Hall was the site of the annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast for Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County (HFH). Over 100 people came, which consisted of the two ReStores, the Habitat office, building site workers, and those individuals, businesses, and organizations that contribute toward making a house a home. Many of those serving the volunteers were family members partnering with our local Habitat affiliate to realize their dream of owning their own home. Our church family was presented a plaque celebrating 25 years of supporting Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County. Our emphasis, since 2008 and HFH home #37, has been to present each Habitat family with a brand new washer and dryer upon the dedication ceremony of their home. HFH home #256 was just dedicated, so that's over 225 washers and dryers ago! It's a big mission! Our church has an ongoing designated mission account for HFH W&D fund, #8545.

Also of note – Our own Vicki Oorbeck is part of a group of ladies that make an individual handmade quilt for each family that has reached the goal of a brand new Habitat home. Consider joining these quilters to create a treasure that can be handed down from generation to generation.

Our local HFH affiliate anticipates completing 15 homes in 2024. That's a whole lotta washers, dryers, and quilts! Thank you, church family for being part of showing the love of Christ in practical ways.

### **LOIS SPURGIN MEMORIAL SERVICE**

A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, March 16th; visitation is at 1:30 p.m. and the service is at 2:30 p.m.** There will be no reception following the service.

If you wish to send flowers, The Little Flower Shop provides excellent arrangements for our Sanctuary each Sunday (352-726-2181).



## THIS WEEK AT FPC

### Sunday, March 10, 2024

#### *Daylight Savings Time Begins*

Cedarkirk Retreat

9:00 Sunday School (Adult classes only)

9:00 Men's Bible Discussion - Parlor

10:00 Worship

11:00 Special Called Congregation Meeting

### Monday, March 11, 2024

10:00 Property & Safety Committee - Library

5:30 Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, March 12, 2024

10:00 Prayer Gathering – Parlor

11:00 Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

### Wednesday, March 13, 2024

\*8:30 Blessings

9:00 Staff Meeting

10:00 Coffee & Conversation – Fellowship Hall

5:30 WOW Dinner – ‘Wearin’ O’ Th’ Green”

5:30 Outreach Committee - Library

### Thursday, March 14, 2024

\*8:30 Blessings

9:30-11:30 Presbytery Committee Zoom Call

10:00 Bible Study – Fellowship Hall

11:00 Congregational Life - Library

2:00-4:00 Presbytery Zoom Call

### Friday, March 15, 2024

### Saturday, March 16, 2024

8:00-3:00 Relief Share – Fellowship Hall

10:00 CCCC Rehearsal – Sanctuary

### Sunday, March 17, 2024

9:00 Sunday School

9:00 Men's Bible Discussion – Parlor

10:00 Worship

6:00-7:30 Anchored – packing for Blessings

\*Outside Groups

A SPECIAL

# Thank You

TO THOSE SERVING TODAY

## Ushers

*Sandy Boyette*


*Terrie Christophers*

*Martha Coughlin*

## Ask Me Desk

*Ray & Caryl Birstler*



By  his  
wounds  
we are  
*healed.*

Isaiah 53:5, NIV