

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

O Lord, our light and salvation, our shield and the stronghold of our lives, we confess that we have neglected your gracious covenant; for though you have granted us citizenship in heaven, we have concerned ourselves with earthly things; though your Son has borne the cross for our redemption, we have indulged the flesh, fearing to follow him as we should.

Forgive us, merciful God, for our shameful ways, and transform us in accordance with your glory and the power by which Christ Jesus rules over all things. Amen.

***Congregational Response**

Hymn No. 572

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Passing of the Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Worshippers may greet each other by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

*****Latecomers may be seated.*

Hymn 498, addressed to a newly-baptized child, begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person rather than the whole congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

Children's Church is a special time for our youngest members to learn scripture through song, art, and play.

11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Maryann Elizabeth Brunjes, daughter of Ben and Molly Brunjes.

***Question to Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ promise to guide and nurture Maryann by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ? Do We? **We do.**

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed* Hymnal, p.14

Baptism Hymn No. 498 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* KINGDOM

11:00 a.m. A Time for Young Children

Children, age four through grade two, may come forward for a message and then leave for Children's Church located in the Children's Ministry Suite. To pick up your child after the service, please go through the Atrium and down the stairs.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination *(spoken)*

O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear,
and show us what we ought to do,
to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

First Lesson

Psalm 27:1-5, 13-14, page 493

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***8:45 a.m. Hymn No. 84** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* RATHBUN

11:00 a.m. Anthem *O for a Closer Walk with God* C. V. Stanford

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame;
a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!
Return, O holy Dove, return! Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.
So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

Second Lesson Luke 13:1-9, page 952
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon GETTING CLOSER TO JESUS THIS LENT Dr. Doak

2. When We Need to Repent

Text: (Jesus speaking) “No, I tell you; but unless you repent,
you will all perish just as they did.” Luke 13:5

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn No. 281** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

Litany for Lent

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy;
you are generous to all who call upon you.

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sins.
On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions and were
bruised for our iniquities.

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort, our life and
our resurrection, our peace and reconciliation:

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, hope of all who die for you,
and joy of all the saints:

Save us, Lord.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

grant us peace.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer Hymnal p. 16

. . . forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . . .

The anthem is a setting of our Hymn 396 by the Irish composer Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924). Merely longing for a restored relationship with God is not enough; real repentance requires amendment of life. The similarities of the first and last stanzas of this hymn suggest both continuity and improvement. This tune was one of the new common tunes in the Scottish Psalter of 1635.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*. The 18th-century text did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Every worshiper, young and old, is encouraged to offer a gift out of gratitude to God.

Offertory *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* Helmut Walcha

***Doxology** Hymn No. 592

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Benediction**

Following worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship and refreshment in the Atrium.

***Congregational Response** Hymn No. 396, Stanza 4

**So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.**

Postlude *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* Johann Sebastian Bach

The offertory and postlude are based on Hymn 282. The hymn is a testimony of experience. The original seven-stanza German text (based on Psalm 55:22) and its tune were created by the author/composer at the age of twenty in thanksgiving for finding employment many weeks after being left almost penniless following a robbery.

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Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday, February 28th, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Our annual blood drive has become an important and integral part of First Presbyterian's Outreach Program. This year, our goal is to donate 32 usable units of blood.

Snacks and refreshments will be available to donors. You can reserve an appointment time online at redcrossblood.org, by signing up in the Atrium after worship services, by calling the church office, or by emailing Caitlin White at caitlin@firstpresathens.org. Please join us for this important event!