



the good news is..

even Judas gets
his feet washed

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

Welcome to

First Presbyterian Church



WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

(As a courtesy to everyone, please mute your mobile device.)

WORDS OF WELCOME

The birds announce God's glory! They remind us of the love of God we often don't pay attention to, but it is always there, singing for us. Welcome! Welcome to this place and to this community. Here we are reminded again that the love of God awaits you and that we are the expression of God's love to one another. We come to church not to forget this love. We are here to remind ourselves: God's love is like birds singing every day. That is the good news we have: the love of God! When we feel we have nothing else, we can lean on the love of God.

As we gather today, we are called to listen to the new commandment by Jesus: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

To love is to listen—to listen to each other, to the signs of life everywhere. It is also to listen to the silence within us. Throughout this service we will learn how to sit in silence and listen. Listen to our hearts, listen to God's voice, listen to each other. Just as we listened to God's love through the birds, let us now listen to God's love through each other's voices.

POEM

Even Now | *Sarah A. Speed*
Doc Nesbitt

We ask the question a million different times
over the course of lives.
Do you love me even now?
As children we ask this question
with eyes the size of saucers
and a quivering bottom lip.
In our teenage years,
we ask the question by pushing people away
and paying attention to who comes back.
As adults we ask the question by
extending the first invitation
and seeing who returns the kindness.
Over and over again we ask the world,
Do you love me even now?
The thing I've learned about God
is that, no matter what comes before "even now,"
the answer will always be yes.

HYMN

As the Deer [p. 7]

CALL TO CONFESSION

We come to worship feeling the burdens of life that only God knows. But we also come feeling weary, tired, sad, frustrated, angry, exhausted, spent, not knowing what to do, how to live our lives fully, or how to fix things. Our world is so confusing right now, and we are feeling lost. It is time to confess to God the things we carry and don't tell anybody, the things that we feel we can't speak, and the things we don't know how to speak. I will lead us in a responsive reading and then after the Assurance of Pardon we will have a time of silence.

God of love,
we come to you feeling a thousand feelings.
There is too much going on, and we don't know how to handle it all.
We don't even know how to put words to all that we are going through.

Hear our prayers.

God of love,
we come to you wanting total control over our lives, the stories we live,
the people around us, and our own desires.

Hear our prayers.

God of love,
we also come to you feeling numb.

Hear our prayers.

God of love,
we come to you in silence.

Hear our prayers.

God of love,
we come to you because you are the source of life.

Hear our prayers.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON & TIME OF SILENCE

Hear this good news: the God of love listens to you attentively.
“As an eagle stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, as it spreads its wings,
takes them up, and bears them aloft on its pinions.”
We are all listened to.
We are all forgiven.
Let us sit in silence.
Perhaps in this time, you may contemplate the joy of being free.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 22:47-53

John 13:1-35

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Friends, the food is before us. We have listened to God and to each other. Now we will feed each other as if God is feeding us. The world is too difficult, but the good news is: we are here for each other to share the love of a God who will never stop loving us. We pray that God uses the gifts of this food to nourish our bodies, hearts, and souls. Bless this bread, bless this wine, bless our people, bless our community, bless the world. **Amen.**

HYMN

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

WORDS TO TAKE WITH YOU

**If You Hear Nothing Else, Then
Hear This | *Sarah A. Speed***

You can make a fool of yourself.
You can bet on the wrong thing,
lose it all, unravel people's trust.
You can laugh at a funeral,
curse in a church, say the wrong thing
at the wrong time, every time.
You can lose yourself in a bottle,
a relationship, a false sense of security.
You can uncover prejudice
and wrestle with the shame of it all.
You can withhold an apology,
blame it on someone else,
tell yourself it's not your fault.
You can trade in love for a bag of coins.
And even then,
even still,
even now,
Jesus will love you enough to wash your feet.
If you hear nothing else in the gospel,
hear this.

MORE WORDS TO TAKE WITH YOU

Love & Love & Love Again | *Sarah A. Speed*

If you back a cat into a corner
she'll arch her back,
show her teeth,
hiss in your direction.

If you back a human into a corner,
we'll raise our fists,
raise our voices,
throw words of hate in your direction.

But when we backed Jesus into a corner,
he said, Forgive them, for they know not what they do.
He turned and looked at Peter, love in his eyes.

He offered grace to the criminal hanging beside him.

When we backed Jesus into a corner,
he loved and loved and loved again.

In this war-torn world,
we could do the same.

We could ground the bomber planes,
empty the gun cartridges,
unclench our fists, soften our jaws.

They say it can't be done,
but don't believe them.

In this war-torn world, we could try—
love and love and love again.

As the Deer

D A Bm Dsus D
 As the deer pants for the wa - ter, so my

G A7sus A7 D G A7 D A
 soul longs af - ter you. You a - lone are my

Bm Dsus D G Asus A7 D
 heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

Bm Bm/A G D/F# G Bm
 You a - lone are my strength, my shield; to you a - lone

Em F#sus F# D A
 may my spir - it yield. You a - lone are my

Bm Dsus D G A7sus A7 D
 heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

This praise chorus begins as a paraphrase of Psalm 42:1 and later incorporates parts of Psalm 28:7. In some early Christian communities, people chanted or sang Psalm 42 on their way to be baptized, and many early Christian baptisteries were decorated with deer drinking water.



Flow | Camelle Beaugelin Caldwell
Acrylic on paper



Revealed through Nonviolence | Lauren Wright Pittman
Gouache & colored pencils on paper