



### **Going Song: “Jesus Loves Me”**

“Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to him belong; they are weak but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.”

*Children 3-years-old through Kindergarten are excused for Bible Bunch (Bible Bunch Rm)  
Children in grades 1 through 5 are excused for Sunday School (Sunday School Rm)*

**Minute for Prayer Ministry Team**

Sharon Koch

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **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.”

#### **The Ministry of The Church**

*(Please sign and pass the red friendship book.)*

**Offering** . . . “*Freely we have received, freely let us give.*”

**Offering Anthem**

“Kyrie”

René Clausen

“Kyrie eleison  
Christe eleison”

“Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy”

#### **\* Unison Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Special Music**

“Quis est homo” from *Stabat Mater*  
Robyn Lamp and Birgit Fioravante

Gioachino Rossini

“Quis est homo, qui non fleret  
Christi matrem si videret  
In tanto supplicio?”

“What person would not weep  
seeing Christ’s mother  
in grieving torment?”

Quis non posset contristari,  
Piam matrem contemplari  
Dolentem cum Filio?”

Who could not feel such sorrow,  
to see his pious mother,  
grieving with her son on the cross?”

**Second Scripture Reading** (p. 1174)

Matthew 5:21-24

**Message**

“Damaged Relationships”

Dr. Hood

**\*Hymn of Dedication No. 386**

“O for a World”

Azmon

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

“Prelude in g minor”

Johannes Brahms

\*The congregation is invited to stand, if able.

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**The Church Bell** is rung in loving memory of Philip (1895 – 1990) and Ginny (1919 – 2012) Carow. Prior to Sunday morning worship, the bell from our original Sanctuary is rung in memory of those in our Memorial Garden. Let us pause to give thanks for all who have gone before us, who rest in the peace of God, thanking God for the Christian witness of their lives.

The **flowers** that beautify the Chancel this morning are given to the Glory of God.

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### Take Note

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**Stewardship 2019:** Our thanks to members and friends of our congregation who have made their stewardship pledge for 2019. Thus far, we have received 240 pledges, totaling \$848,683. If you have not yet made your pledge for 2019 we encourage you to make it as soon as possible. Estimate of giving cards are available in the pews. You may place these in the offering plate, mail them to the church office or call Christine Davis in the financial office (561-276-6338, ext. 16), and make a verbal pledge by phone. Please note that if you are currently using automated payments through your bank or credit card to make your pledge, we still need a completed pledge card from you. Let us all be faithful to our calling as Disciples of Christ and support the work of Christ’s Church.

**Capital Campaign Update:** “Pledges” reached the goal of \$3.5 million in early July 2018. Those who pledged made great strides in fulfilling those and we are now within \$100,000 from “collecting” all of it. We are in a position to be debt-free as a church momentarily with this news. If you have made a pledge and are able to finish off your fulfillment of such pledge, it will put us at our goal of full collection. Thank you again to all those who volunteered and committed financial resources to this tremendous project! Kurt Bagwell and Rob Tanner, co-chairpersons Capital Campaign.

Our children will present a short Chancel drama with music as the opening to our **11 a.m. worship service on Palm Sunday (April 14<sup>th</sup>)**. All children are invited to participate in this story of the first Palm Sunday. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings from **10:30 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.** in the **Sunday School Room**. Contact Jim Poch (561-276-6338 ext. 24 or jimpoch@firstdelray.com) for more information.

The Deacons are hosting their annual **“Meet Your Deacon Sunday” next Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** in **Fellowship Hall** after the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services. This is a great way for you to meet your Deacon and for your Deacon to meet you.

Join us for a **Birthday Sundae Sunday**, in **Fellowship Hall** on **April 7<sup>th</sup>** following the **11 a.m. worship service** to celebrate our birthdays and discover what our birth month indicates about us. **Reservations** are requested for planning purposes and can be made on the website under *Upcoming Events*, in the Narthex, or by calling the church office (561-276-6338).

To prepare for the Easter season, join us for a “**Dinner and a Movie**” on **Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>** from **6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** Based on the worldwide best-selling book, “The Case for Christ” is the true story of a reporter working to disprove the growing Christian faith of his wife. A suggested donation of \$20 is requested for the Deacons’ Scholarship Fund. Nursery care will be available. **Reservations** may be made in the Narthex, on the website under *Upcoming Events*, or by calling the church office (561-276-6338). Scholarships are available to attend.

Come have fun as we **explore the story of Easter** using jelly beans of all colors to tell the beloved story in a new and delicious way! Join us on **April 14<sup>th</sup>**, at **noon** in **Fellowship Hall**. We will start the day with pizza. After we eat, we will discover the story of Easter and then we will hunt Easter Eggs. Please be sure to bring your own basket for collecting eggs. You may make your **reservation** in the Narthex, on the church website under *Upcoming Events*, or by calling the church office (561-276-6338).

Put **VBS** on your calendars now! From **June 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>**, **9 a.m. to noon**, we will be taking an out of this world adventure as we explore where God’s power can take us! Cokesbury’s ***To Mars and Beyond*** will be the resource we use as we look at lives of men and women in the Bible who showed God’s power! If you would like to participate in the planning of this great week, email Grace Hood (gracehood@firstdelray.com). Grace Hood and Kathleen Baldwin will be the co-directors!

If you are **returning to your northern address**, please contact Nancy Fine (561-276-6338, ext. 10 or nancyfine@firstdelray.com) so that we can change our records to ensure that you receive your mailings over the summer months.

The demand for food in our community continues to grow. Before you leave for an extended time, please consider **clearing out your kitchen cabinets** of dried or canned, unopened and unexpired food and donating it to the church. You may drop off your donations in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or bring it to the church office during the week. It will be given to our local food pantries that so desperately need food.

Stop by the **Narthex** and purchase **Doug Hood’s new book** Nurture Faith: Five Minutes to Strengthen Your Walk with Christ for **\$15**. This expanded edition of Heart & Soul: Volume 2 contains 24% new material in a more compact design.

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## **For Our Younger Worshippers**

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**Children’s Worship Activities and Bibles** are at the **Children’s Table** in the **Covered Patio** for use during worship. Please return the clipboards and Bibles to the table after the service.

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## **Connect with First Presbyterian Church**

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Please join us in the **Narthex** at **10 a.m.** for a **Coffee Break** and at **noon** for **Fellowship Hour**, our times of fellowship.

Read **Doug Hood’s weekly meditation** through our church website (www.firstdelray.com) under *Resources*. Don’t forget to subscribe to his meditation so that you do not miss any of the postings.

For those interested in taking notes during the worship service, a **Sermon Notes Page** is available by the west door.

If you are a member of the church and need a **blue** First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach **parking sticker**, stop by the church office during the week.

Members who would like to receive **email notification of members' deaths and memorial services** should contact Nancy Fine (nancyfine@firstdelray.com).

If you would like to receive your **Spire Newsletter electronically**, please email Nancy Fine (nancyfine@firstdelray.com), text FPCDELRAYBEACH to 22828 (message and data rates may apply), or complete the online form on our website (www.firstdelray.com) under *Resources*.

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## Church Membership Directory

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The **Pictorial Church Membership Directory** is available online for members of the church. Visit our website (www.firstdelray.com) under *Connect* for more information.

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## Sunday Mornings

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Please turn off your **cell phones and electronic devices** during the worship service.

**Closed Circuit TV** is available for viewing the worship service in the **Quiet Room**.

**Children's Worship Activities and Bibles** are at the **Children's Tables** in the **Covered Patio** for use during worship.

**Large Print Bulletins and Hearing Devices** are available from the Deacons.

**Nursery Care** for children from birth through Kindergarten is available from **8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** in the **Nursery**.

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## Sunday Children's Programs

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**Bible Bunch Sunday School** meets after the Children's Time during the **11 a.m. worship service**. Children 3 years old through Kindergarten should follow the class leaders to the **Bible Bunch Room**. The class is led by Alice Barrett and Iva Branscombe.

**Sunday School for Children** in 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, meets after the Children's Time during the **11 a.m. worship service**. They are using the *Growing in Grace and Gratitude* curriculum. The class is led by Grace Hood and Liz Landes in the **Sunday School Room**.

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## Weekly Education Programs

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The **Monday Morning Women's Bible Study** meets **Mondays** at **10 a.m.** in the **Youth Room**. They are using the video study, "Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation", by Professor Craig Koester. All women are welcome. For more information, contact Linda Prior (561-276-6338).

**Men's Fellowship** meets on **Thursday** at **8:30 a.m.** in the **Meeting Room**. They are discussing the Nurture Faith from Sunday's bulletin. For more information, contact Bruce Gimmy (561-276-6338).

The **Women's Discipleship Group** meets on **Thursdays** at **10 a.m.** in the **Meeting Room**. All women are invited to attend the study on Growing to be like Christ, Doing Life Together by Zondervan and Rick Warren.

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## Youth Group

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**Refuge Youth Group** meets on **Fridays** from **7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Youth grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> are invited to the **Youth Room** for faith, fellowship, and fun. A snack will be provided. Friends are always welcome! For more information, contact Greg Rapier (561-276-6338, ext. 13 or [gregrapier@firstdelray.com](mailto:gregrapier@firstdelray.com)).

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## Monthly Educational Program

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The **Monday Women's Book Group** meets on **Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**, at **12:30 p.m.** in the **Meeting Room**. All women are invited to attend the discussion on Song of the Lark by Willa Cather. Contact Martha Smith (561-276-6338) for more information.

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## Music

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The **Chancel Choir** rehearses on **Sunday** mornings at **10:15 a.m.** to prepare for the worship service and on **Thursday** evenings at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Choir Room**. Don Cannarozzi is available for those who may be a little shy about becoming part of this ministry. You can speak with him after the service, or contact him ([dcannaro@hotmail.com](mailto:dcannaro@hotmail.com)) for more information.

**Westminster Ringers** (for adults and high school youth) is on **Thursdays** in the **Bell Room** from **6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.** Contact Jim Poch (561-276-6338, ext. 24 or [jimpoch@firstdelray.com](mailto:jimpoch@firstdelray.com)) for more information.

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## Financial Considerations

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There is a very convenient way to **donate online** to First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach through the Presbyterian Mission Exchange which is part of the 200+ year old Presbyterian Foundation and transfers your donation promptly. Visit the church website ([www.firstdelray.com](http://www.firstdelray.com)) under *Give* for more information.

On December 18, 2015, the President signed legislation indefinitely extending the **charitable IRA rollover provision** enabling IRA owners ages 70½ or older to make a direct, tax-free transfer to First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach or the charity of their choice. Certain limitations apply so please consult your tax adviser.

**Remember the Church When Estate Planning.** Our Endowment and Remembrance Funds are two excellent opportunities for your giving consideration, be it your will, stocks, or as a named beneficiary to an insurance policy. This financially wise method of stewardship helps ensure the long-term financial stability of the church and provides a planned means for the church to continue its role in the lives of our members and those to whom we reach out, in our community and beyond. For more information on long-term giving, call the church office (561-276-6338).

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## Membership

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Are you interested in **joining our church**? If so, we would love to see you on **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** in the **Covered Patio immediately following the 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. worship service**. In order to join, no reservations or classes are required for those who have been previously baptized.

**Invite** a family member, friend, neighbor, co-worker, or business associate to worship with us. Share your faith and love for Christ's Church with others.

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## Mission Opportunity

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We are making **Hygiene Kits** for The Caring Kitchen. If you have unopened travel size items that you would like to donate, please put them in the collection basket in the Narthex.

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## Employment Connections Ministry – Career Shepherds

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The **Employment Connections Ministry** assists individuals to get career guidance. We invite all church members to join this ministry by lending their expertise and availability to mentor or help for whatever time they may have available. Contact Richard Story (561-276-6338) or Nancy Fine (561-276-6338, ext. 10 or nancyfine@firstdelray.com) for more information.

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## Pennies from Heaven

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Help us support the battle against hunger and poverty at home and away through our **Pennies from Heaven** Offering. Collect 5 cents per family member per meal each day. All monies collected are donated on a quarterly basis to local, regional, and national food programs. We collected \$733.60 from the **January Offering**. Since September 2012, we have collected \$37,947.66. Our next collection is on **Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**.

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## Prayer Ministry Team

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The **Prayer Ministry Team** meets on **Wednesdays** at **3 p.m.** in the **Youth Room** to pray together for all those who request prayers. Each request is treated with respect, confidentiality, and caring. You are **invited to join** this team by calling Sharon Koch (561-276-6338).

**Prayer Concern Cards** are in the pews. If you have a specific prayer concern, please complete a card and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Concerns are forwarded to members of the Prayer Ministry Team and pastoral staff.

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## Hospitalization

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If you or a family member are **hospitalized**, please notify the church office (561-276-6338). Even if you give the name of the church upon admission, the hospital will not notify us.

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## Special Prayer List as of March 12<sup>th</sup>

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Please keep our members and friends in your thoughts and prayers this week.

# Easter Memorials

Members and friends of our church wishing to make a memorial gift on Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, may designate their contribution for Easter lilies to beautify the Sanctuary and/or for the purchase of food for needy people in the community.

This alternative giving opportunity is suggested due to the continuing need of people in our area for food. By being modest and reasonable in our Easter decorations and by feeding hungry people in our own community, we will be responding to the needs our Lord had in mind when He said:

**“I was hungry and you gave me food ...**

**As you did it unto one of the least of these, you did it unto me.”**

The names of those in whose memory or honor gifts are made will be printed in our Easter bulletin. Please use the form below to provide the necessary information. The form must be received in the church office no later than **Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**, the deadline for including names in the Easter bulletin. Donors of lilies (\$8) may pick them up after the 11 a.m. Easter worship service or leave them to be distributed to members who are ill or confined to their homes.

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(Please **PRINT** the information, as you want it to appear in the bulletin)

My/Our Easter Memorial of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is given:

In loving memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ or

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Env. # \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our contribution is to be used for:

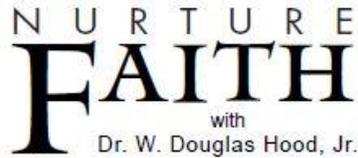
\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lilies

\_\_\_\_\_ Please deliver my plant(s) to the homebound

\_\_\_\_\_ Food for the Needy

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant(s)

Please make out your check to **First Presbyterian Church** and indicate on the lower corner “Food for the Needy” or “Lilies”.



## Religious Dropouts

**READ:** John 6:66 (Common English Bible)

*“At this, many of his disciples turned away and no longer accompanied him.”*

### **REFLECT:**

It is now fairly common knowledge that Christian churches across the United States are experiencing decline – decline in membership, decline in worship attendance, and decline in financial support. Diminishing interest in the church has resulted, in many congregations, a shift from full-time pastoral leadership to part-time, reduced opportunities for spiritual nurture and growth, and a smaller impact in the local community. As congregations grow smaller they are faced with difficult decisions such as merging with other churches or closing their doors permanently. Causes for the decline of the Christian Church across our nation has been studied and solutions have been scarce.

What has received less attention is a phenomenon I will call the “religious dropouts.” These are the people who are regularly present in services of worship, engaged in personal spiritual growth, and participate in the church’s mission to feed the hungry, house the homeless and care for the broken. Vibrant and robust churches are built upon their dedication to Jesus and Jesus’ work through the local congregation. It is not difficult to see that the church is stronger for such people. Then, they simply aren’t present anymore. The place they once occupied in worship is empty. It is a phenomenon that dates back to the earthly ministry of Jesus: “many of his disciples turned away and no longer accompanied him.”

The primary reason for the “religious dropout” remains the same from Jesus’ day until ours: frustration and disappointment. There is present in every faith community people who turn to religion for some things the Christian faith never promised to provide. They expect in religion a kind of magical solution to their problems, anxieties, and illnesses and it hasn’t worked out. Some expect that faithfulness to the church will protect them from job loss, marriage discord, and safety from the violence in the world. Others look to the church to shelter their children from everything that is unpleasant and distasteful in the dominant culture. When they fail to receive what they were looking for, they cool to religion and simply dropout.

After many who followed Jesus turned away, Jesus turned to his disciples and asked, “Do you also want to leave?” It is a good question for each one of us to ask. People who come to our churches expecting only to “get something” or find easy solutions will be frustrated and disappointed. Somehow they have missed that Jesus was betrayed, beaten, and crucified. As William Willimon once commented, why do the followers of Jesus expect to get off any better? What is required is a return to the promise that the faith has always made available: In Jesus Christ, God walks with us through the storms, difficulties, and struggles of life, strengthening us along the way. Life will take us to the depths. When we arrive, Jesus will be there. We are not alone.

**RESPOND:**

1. How has this scripture or meditation spoken to you?

2. What insight can you apply to your life this week?

3. What one specific act do you intend to take, an attitude to change, a person to see, or prayer to pray?

**PRAY:**

*God of new life, help me recover faith in your presence and love in the midst of life's struggles.  
Amen.*

**This Week: March 17<sup>th</sup> through March 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

|                        |                                                                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Nursery Care – Nursery                                                        |
| 9 a.m.                 | Worship Service – Sanctuary                                                   |
| 10 a.m.                | Coffee Hour – Narthex                                                         |
| 10:15 a.m.             | Chancel Choir – Choir Room                                                    |
| 10:30 a.m.             | Palm Sunday Pageant Rehearsal – Sunday School Room                            |
| 11 a.m.                | Worship Service – Sanctuary                                                   |
| 11 a.m.                | Bible Bunch Sunday School – Bible Bunch Room                                  |
| 11 a.m.                | Sunday School (1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> grades) – Sunday School Room |
| 12 p.m.                | Fellowship Hour – Narthex                                                     |

**Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

|         |                                                 |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 10 a.m. | Monday Morning Women’s Bible Study – Youth Room |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------|

**Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

|        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 6 p.m. | Trustee Meeting – Meeting Room    |
| 7 p.m. | Session Meeting – Conference Room |

**Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

|        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 p.m. | Prayer Ministry Team – Youth Room |
|--------|-----------------------------------|

**Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

|           |                                           |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Men’s Fellowship – Meeting Room           |
| 10 a.m.   | Women’s Discipleship Group – Meeting Room |
| 6:30 p.m. | Westminster Ringers Rehearsal – Bell Room |
| 7:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room              |

