

ORDER OF WORSHIP
2nd Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026
10:30 AM

PRELUDE

I Need Thee Every Hour
Mary Jo Cox, organ

Bob Thompson

WORDS OF GREETING

One: God keeps us, saves us,
and protects us in times of trouble.

**All: Our help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

WELCOME

*PROCESSION OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST & THE WORD OF GOD

Come, All You People

**Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker;
Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker;
Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker;
Come now and worship the Lord.**

(Choir 1st time, Congregation joins 2nd and 3rd time)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Norma Richardson

One: Where does our help come from?

**All: Our help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

One: Who is our Keeper?

**All: The Lord is our keeper,
by day and by night.**

One: How long will God protect us?

**All: God will keep our going out and our coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

*HYMN No. 15

All Creatures of Our God and King (verses 1,4,6)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

(Silent Confession)

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Teacher, you call us to go, following the plan that you have set for us. You promise us blessings and purpose, but we do not trust your words. We cling to what we already know, we trust in what we can see and touch, we make excuses for our failure to trust in you. Call to us again, that we may be born again through your Spirit. Help us to believe and give us the abundant life that comes from following your will. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*RESPONSE No. 519

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak
**You are my strength when I am weak;
you are the treasure that I seek;
you are my all in all.
When I fall down, you pick me up;
when I am dry, you fill my cup;
you are my all in all.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!**

“You Are My Strength When I Am Weak” words and music by Dennis L. Jernigan
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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 121

Amen. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

Total Praise

Richard Smallwood

Gil and Eleanor Rau Choral Scholars:

Lauren Geates, Lorelei Wilburn, Lexi Galliers, Oliver Gottbreht, Liam Cox

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-17

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“Your Faith Tag Line Is”

Andrew Miller

Question of the day: What would be a few words that describe your faith that would appear on a bumper sticker?

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.12,9.14*

The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in people as sin in the sight of God. In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and each other, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation. But God’s love never changes. Against all who oppose the divine will, God expresses love in wrath. In the same love, God bore judgement and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring all people to repentance and new life. Amen.

*HYMN No. 517

Here, O Our Lord, We See You Face to Face (verses 1,2,5)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

If you are worshiping virtually today, please make sure that you have some sort of drink and bread or cracker for Communion. In person communion wafers are made of flour mix (garbanzo bean, tapioca, sorghum, fava beans, potato starch), water, canola oil salt).

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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 have sinned 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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN No. 634 *To God Be the Glory*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Amen* Marty Haugen

*POSTLUDE *Jesu Meine Freude* Don Freudenburg

*NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS, SO GO IN PEACE AND SERVE THE LORD

Notes:

*Stand in body or spirit.

Worship Leaders: Mary Jo Cox; Chancel Choir; Norma Richardson; Andrew Miller

Gil and Elinor Rau Choral Scholars: Liam Cox, Lexi Galliers, Lauren Geates, Lorelei Wilburn, Oliver Gottbreht

Following worship there will be fellowship time in the Witherspoon Room.

The Prayers and Concern of the Congregation are extended to:

Joyce Petro, Marilyn Bidwell, Michael Espinoza, William Richardson, Nancy Wilson, Andy Loubert (Pete and John Loubert's brother), John Daniels, J T Schmitt (Barb Lindley's son-in-law), Nick Baker, Mike McNabb, Scott Campbell (Andrew & Martha Miller's friend), Betty Gempel, David & Flynn Gray, Lois Miller, Jaime Love (brother of Kevin Love), Louisa Ellis (Jeff & Cam Ellis granddaughter), Suzanne Hand, Charles Loubert, Verna Russell, Sarah Gilbert, Joyce McNabb, Lavona Osborne. Cathy Chang and Noah Lapp, Vowles Elementary, Mundy Presbyterian, Swartz Creek, MI, Presbyterian Church in Canada, and Therapy Dogs International.

Offering

If you are joining us for worship in-person and would like to give an offering, please place your offering in an offering plate. You can also give your pledge, per capita payment, or offering by mailing it to the church office: First Presbyterian Church, 1250 Watson Road, Mt. Pleasant, 48858. You can also give an offering by going to the church's website, www@fpcmp.org and hit the "Give Now" button or use the QR Code,



Children and Worship

All children are welcome and loved at First Presbyterian! All children from newborns through fifth grade begin in the Sanctuary for worship with their families. Infant through three years old will be dismissed to the nursery and Pre-K through 5th grade will be dismissed to go to the Worship Center for Children Worship with a blessing after the Passing of the Peace. Children are also welcome to stay in worship. On Communion Sundays, Children (usually the first Sunday of the month), children remain in worship.

Save the Date::

March 28 from 9-2, Red Cross Blood Drive
Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, April 2 at 7:30PM in the Witherspoon Room
Good Friday Service, Friday, April 3 at 7:30PM in the Sanctuary
Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 5 at 10:30AM in the Sanctuary
Classic's @ the Presby, April 19 at 4:00PM in the Sanctuary
May 30 from 9-2, Red Cross Blood Drive

Ways to Help with Food Donations through First Presbyterian Church

- 1) In honor of Mr. Peanut Butter, Hal Crawley, we ask that if you can purchase a case of peanut butter or an extra jar of peanut butter when you do your grocery shopping to share with the Food Pantry of Community Compassion Network. Drop the peanut butter off at the church and put it on the pew across from the Church Office. The peanut butter will be delivered to the Food Pantry once or twice a week.
- 2) If you have extra food or would like to buy some extra food for the small white shelves across from the Women's bathroom that would be wonderful. This food is shared with those in the community who come in for a gas card or need a little extra food until they can make it to their Food Pantry appointment or their next paycheck. Suggested food items: canned meats, mac n cheese, canned veggies/fruit and cereal. If you purchase canned goods, try to get the cans with a pull top.
- 3) Students are asked to bring an extra snack or two for "Snack Time" during the school day at Vowles Elementary. Some families struggle to provide snacks. Would you please consider helping by bringing individual pre-package snacks and putting them in the yellow wagon in the Narthex? Approved snacks: Goldfish, Pretzels, Cheez Its, Veggie Straws, Granola Bars (any kind), Crackers- peanut butter or cheese, Teddy Grahams, Rice Krispie Treats, Fruit Snacks, Pudding cups Applesauce cups, Popcorn- indiv bags, Pringles- indiv cups/container
- 4) Write a check out to FPC and in the Memo Line put *Food Pantry*. It will be sent to Community Compassion Network for the Food Pantry.

If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Andrew.

Blood Drive

Saturday, March 28 from 9AM-2PM in the Witherspoon Room.



<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=fpcmp>

The Season of Lent

Pascha (Easter) quickly evolved into a cycle that we now celebrate as a day and a season of the Great Fifty Days ending with Pentecost and preceded by a period of preparation. Though the earliest traditions are unclear, Lent apparently evolved as a time for training, particularly as a time of final preparation of candidates for baptism at Easter. Lent also became a time for the renewal of the faithful, as well as a time for the excommunicated to prepare to return to the community of faith.

By the fourth century, Lent had developed from a two-day fast, through a weeklong fast, to a biblical “forty days.” Originally, though Lent contained elements of penitence, it was primarily a time devoted to preparing those who were to be baptized. The Lenten season seems to have developed as a period of learning with a focus on what it means to be a follower of Christ. Those preparing for baptism learned the creed, the teachings of Jesus (perhaps the Sermon on the Mount), and the disciplines of the Christian faith.

The period of Lent had and still has an emphasis on reaffirming baptismal identity, of knowing and living the faith. During Lent, we have the opportunity to reaffirm who we are and always will be, in anticipation of Easter.

(Excerpt comes from “The Companion to the Book of Common Worship”, page 109)

Save Our Windows & Doors & Trim!

Wahl to Wahl Painting of Mount Pleasant provided the lowest bid of \$22,086.45. This is the crew that provided excellent work last spring rebuilding the interior wooden structure of the steeple, cleaning and painting the porcelain steeple panels, and painting the trim on the tower.

Through your generosity we have already raised \$7,000 to apply to this project! **We are asking for your help to raise \$16,000.00 to cover the remaining cost of wood preparation, painting and lift rental. Please support the “Save Our Windows & Doors & Trim” campaign by sending your contributions to the church office by March 31st.** This will allow us to lock in the quote and have the work scheduled for 2026.

Thank you for your help in keeping our church building beautiful – inside and out. May our church continue to shine as a beacon of faith for the entire Mount Pleasant community.

Contact Kevin Love at klove.iodoc@gmail.com