

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**March 19, 2023**

**10:30AM**

PRELUDE

*Meditation on "Slane"*  
Mary Jo Cox, organ

Elizabeth A. Krouse

WORDS OF GREETING

One: From where does our help come?

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

WELCOME

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

INTROIT

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

Joseph Hunt

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marge Havens

One: The Lord is my shepherd.

There is nothing I lack.

**All: God guides me in proper paths  
for the sake of God's good name.**

One: God bathes my head in oil;  
my cup is so full it spills over!

**All: Yes, God's goodness and faithful love  
will pursue me all the days of my life.**

\*HYMN No. 490

*Wash, O God Your Sons and Daughters*

*(see hymnal)*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

(Silent Confession)

\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we predict, but we forget: you do what is good, not what is expected. Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles. Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions. Most of all, forgive us when we do not respond to your call, ignoring what we need to do to show the world your love and grace. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*RESPONSE

**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!**

CHILDREN'S OFFERING; BLESSING

**Congregation:** **May the Lord go with you as you  
worship and learn together.**

Children: May the Lord be with you as you  
worship here.

**Congregation:** **Go in peace.**

Children: We go in peace. Amen.

*During the response to the Passing of the Peace, newborns through 5th grade are invited to come forward to the chancel steps for the blessing. After the blessing, they will be dismissed to the Nursery and to the Children's Worship Center in the lower level for the Children and Worship time. Please pick up your child from the Nursery or Worship Center when they have finished their time of worship.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23

Amen. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

*Open My Eyes*  
Mercedes Van Almen, solo

K. Lee Scott

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-41

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

REFLECTION

"Yet, Another Spiritual Journey"

Andrew Miller

Question of the day: What questions do you have about faith that you dare ask?

\*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.796

*We Come to You for Healing, Lord* (vs. 1,2,5)  
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(If you have a prayer of concern or joy, please text 989-954-3297.)*

MORNING PRAYER 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.**

\*HYMN No. 450

*Be Thou My Vision*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Amen*

Marty Haugen

\*POSTLUDE

*Voluntary*

William Selby

Notes:

\*Stand in body and spirit.

Worship Leaders: Mary Jo Cox; Wilson Gyasi; The Chancel Choir; Andrew Miller

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

STORYTELLER

Megan Goodwin

GREETER

Martha Miller

The Prayers and Concern of the Congregation are extended to:  
John Monahan, Jacob Malley (friend of Amelia and Billy Myler), Heidi Long, Lois Miller, Jaime Love (brother of Kevin Love), Louisa Ellis (Jeff & Cam Ellis' granddaughter), Olivia Geisthardt (friend of Anna Clare Miller), Suzanne Hand, Dottie Theunissen, Mike Mitchell & JT Schmitt (Barb Lindley's son-in-laws), Charles Loubert, Jim Gilbert, Peter and Verna Russell, David Neyer, Lois Kerr, Sarah Gilbert, Joyce McNabb, Colleen Long, Lavona Osborne. Cathy Chang, Juan Lopez, and Noah Lapp, Vowles Elementary, First Presbyterian, Saginaw, MI, Evangelical Church of Egypt, Synod of the Nile, and Meal on Wheels.

### 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](http://www@fpcmp.org) and hit the "Give Now" button or use the QR Code,



Please join us for a time of fellowship after worship in the Witherspoon Room.

The food pantry of Community Compassion Network needs peanut butter. Please bring it to the church and we will make sure it is taken to the Strickler Center and given to the food pantry.

**Capital Campaign: Lift the Roof**

At the January 15, 2023, Stated Session Meeting, the Session voted and approved unanimously to replace the roofing on the entire church complex weather permitting this March. The total cost of the roof project is \$88,000.

In December of 2022 the church received a \$20,000 gift to go towards the roof replacement. Thus, we have a balance of \$68,000 to raise. The Session also approved taking \$34,000 out of the General Fund to pay towards the roof replacement. So, that means we have a balance of \$34,000 to come up with. The Session in addition approved a Capital Campaign to raise the remaining funds plus a 10% tithe for local outreach opportunities. Hence, the Session is asking the congregation to raise \$37,400.

One may ask why the 10% tithe? The reason is simple for me, we as a church, we as the body of Christ cannot only look inward but we also must look outward to see how we can help others in our community.

Please pray and consider making a donation to the “Lift the Roof Capital Campaign” so that we can continue to stay dry and warm as we continue to reach out to help those in our community.

Checks may be made out to “FPC” and in the memo line write “Lift the Roof” or you may give electronically by scanning the QR Code below. If you have questions please contact Kevin Love the Chair of House and Grounds, anyone currently serving on Session, or Andrew Miller. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

