A cross with a blue sky and clouds in the background

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**Reverend Andrew MacDonald**

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**March 19th, 2023**

**4th Sunday In Lent**

**THE APPROACH**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:** (Please rise if you are able)

One: Jesus said: We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world

**ALL: Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light!**

(Light the candle)

**One**: Let us now prepare our hearts to worship almighty God.

**Musical Introit - “Jesus, remember me”**

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn #691 –** “My shepherd is the King of love”

1 My shepherd is the King of love

whose goodness fails me never;

for all things good from God above

restore my soul forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,

my ransomed soul is guided,

and where the verdant pastures grow

with heavenly food provided.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,

but yet in love you sought me,

and on your shoulder gently laid,

and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death’s dark vale I fear no ill,

with you, dear Lord, beside me;

your rod and staff my comfort still,

your cross before to guide me.

5 You spread a table in my sight,

anointing grace bestowing,

and, oh, what rapture of delight:

your cup is overflowing.

6 And so through all the length of days

your goodness fails me never;

Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise

within your house forever!

**Prayer of Adoration, Confession and Lord’s Prayer**

# Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

# Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth,

# as it is in heaven.

# Give us this day our daily bread.

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

# And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

# For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

# forever. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace**

**Hymn #571 –** “Lord, I want to be a Christian”

1 Lord, I want to be a Christian

in-a my heart, in-a my heart;

Lord I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.

In-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.

2 Lord, I want to be more loving

in-a my heart, in-a my heart;

Lord I want to be more loving in-a my heart.

In-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.

3 Lord, I want to be more holy

in-a my heart, in-a my heart;

Lord I want to be more holy in-a my heart.

In-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be more holy in-a my heart.

4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus

in-a my heart, in-a my heart;

Lord I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.

In-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Epistle Lesson:   Ephesians 5:8-14

Lenten Insert

**Gloria Patri**

# Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

# As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

# world without end. Amen, amen.

Gospel Reading:  John 9:1-41

**Anthem: “Like a River Flowing”**

**Sermon:** *“*Christ Will Shine on You!”

**Reaffirmation of Faith – Apostles’ Creed – Please rise**

# 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, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sits at 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.

**Hymn #11 –** “The Lord’s my shepherd”

1 The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want,

He makes me down to lie

in pastures green; He leadeth me

the quiet waters by.

2 My soul he doth restore again,

and me to walk doth make

within the paths of righteousness

e’en for his own name’s sake.

3 Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,

yet will I fear none ill,

for thou art with me, and thy rod

and staff me comfort still.

4 My table thou hast furnished

in presence of my foes;

my head thou dost with oil anoint

and my cup overflows.

5 Goodness and mercy all my life

shall surely follow me

and in God’s house forevermore

my dwelling place shall be.

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayers of the People: The People Respond**

One: Shepherd God, fill us with your love

**All: Lead us on your paths.**

**Hymn #374 –** “Oh for a thousand tongues to sing”

1 Oh for a thousand tongues to sing

my great Redeemer’s praise,

the glories of my God and King,

the triumphs of God’s grace.

2 Jesus, the name that charms our fears,

and bids our sorrows cease -

‘tis music in the sinner’s ears;

‘tis life and health and peace.

3 He speaks, and listening to his voice

new life the dead receive;

the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;

the humble poor believe.

4 Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,

your tongues again employ;

you blind, behold your Saviour comes,

and leap, you lame, for joy!

5 My gracious Master and my God,

assist me to proclaim,

and spread through all the earth abroad

the honors of thy name.

**Benediction**

**Coral Response: Threefold Amen**

**Recessional**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All are welcome at First Presbyterian Church. We hope you experience the love of God and of this congregation as we worship, celebrate, and serve one another.

In memoriam donations have been received in memory of Wilfred Marshall and Jessie Wadden from Phoebe Fraser.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Today – 12:15 p.m. –** The Annual Meeting will take place after service. A light lunch will be provided by Session prior to the meeting.

**DOORS NOW OPEN!** - The James St. door and the stairs at the main entrance on MacLean St. are now accessible for those wishing to enter the church at those locations.

**A pink rose with green leaves

Description automatically generated with medium confidence BEST WISHES!!**

Belated Birthday wishes are extended to Vivian Ingham. Vivian celebrated her birthday Mar. 12th. Happy Birthday Vivian!

**Monthly coffee time** – As we resume some of our regular activities, we will once again host coffee hour the third Sunday of the month. For anyone who would like to host, please contact Cathy Lewis at 902-759-9649. If you need help setting up the coffee maker or have any questions, contact Cathy.

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS**

**Scripture reader**: Jennifer Thibeau

**Ushers**: Sherry Green, Phillip Blackwood, Ruth Anne MacIntosh and Cathy Lewis

**Early Christian Educators**: Lynne Ann and Lois MacLellan

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Minister: Rev. Andrew MacDonald (c) 902-331-0322

Organist: Clare Grieves

Office hours: Tues. to Fri. – 10 -1pm

Rev. MacDonaldoffice hours -Tues. to Thurs. 10-2 or by appointment

**Mission Statement:** But he’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple. Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously – take God seriously. Micah 6: 8-The Message

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Written by Jim Goring and the Rev. Ian Fraser (Pointe Claire, Quebec)

Produced by Presbyterian World Service & Development

L: Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,

**P: the Spirit leads us into places of uncertainty**

**where we confront our weakness and insecurities.**

L: Here we are taught to pay attention

to those whom others ignore.

**P: Jesus insists that**

**God’s grace is revealed in unlikely people.**

L: God’s realm is a place where all are welcome,

regardless of their state or position.

In a world of disparity,

we recognize that some receive

what is denied to others.

**P: Let us break through barriers**

**that keep many from receiving**

**the grace that they need.**

**Rabin Smiles Again**

In Nepal, 22-year-old Rabin Budha kept finding dry red patches all over his body. He ignored the issue for weeks and when he could no longer do so, he mentioned it to a health outreach worker in his village who recommended Rabin go for a check-up. After an initial test, a dermatologist suspected that Rabin had leprosy and sent him to hospital for further testing.

Rabin began treatment at the Shining Hospital, where doctors  
admitted him after finding his blood pressure very low. Upon receiving medication and close supervision, his condition improved and treatment is ongoing.

Today, Rabin is grateful for the support, care and love he received at the Shining Hospital and is optimistic about a full recovery.

**This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to provide care and hope to those who are suffering. Through PWS&D, we help people build healthy lives.**

*In Nepal, PWS&D supports the Shining Hospital, which provides health outreach in remote villages, and care and treatment for those experiencing illness, in particular leprosy and tuberculosis.*