

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**March 30th,, 2025**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent &**

**Communion Sunday**

**THE APPROACH**

**\*\*Please rise\*\***

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

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

**\*\*Entry of the Bible:**  Please rise

**\*\*Lighting the Christ Candle:**  Please rise

**Introit –** “I want Jesus to walk with me”

1. I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
When my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

3. When I’m troubled, Lord, walk with me;  
When I’m troubled, Lord, walk with me;   
When my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

**\*\*Call to Worship**

**HYMN #39 “God of mercy, God of grace”**

1. God of mercy, God of grace,

show the brightness of your face.

Shine upon us, Saviour, shine;

fill your world with light divine,

and your saving health extend

unto earth’s remotest end.

2. Let the people praise you, Lord;

be by all that live adored.

Let the nations shout and sing

glory to their gracious King;

at your feet their tribute pay,

and your holy will obey.

3. Let the people praise you, Lord,

earth shall then its fruit afford.

Unto us your blessing give;

we to you devoted live,

all below and all above,

one in joy and light and love.

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

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 #674 -** “In the bulb there is a flower”

1 In the bulb there is a flower,

in the seed, an apple tree,

in cocoons, a hidden promise:

butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter

there’s a spring that waits to be,

unrevealed until its season,

something God alone can see.

2 There’s a song in every silence,

seeking word and melody;

there’s a dawn in every darkness

bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come our future;

what it holds, a mystery,

unrevealed until its season,

something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning,

in our time, infinity;

in our doubt there is believing,

in our life, eternity,

in our death, a resurrection,

at the last, a victory,

unrevealed until its season,

something God alone can see.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Joshua 5:9-12

**Epistle Lesson**: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**Responsive Psalm** **32**

**ONE:** Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

**ALL: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

**ONE:** Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’, and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**ALL: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

**ONE:** I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

**ALL: Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

**\*\*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 Lesson:**  Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**Anthem**

**Sermon:** “In service of Christ”

**Offertory**

**\*\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings Flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above Ye Heavenly Host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Offertory Prayer**

**\*\*Hymn: #371 –** “Love divine, all loves excelling” vs.1,2,4

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,

joy of heaven, to earth come down;

fix in us thy humble dwelling,

all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion,

pure, unbounded love thou art;

visit us with thy salvation;

enter every trembling heart.

2 Breathe, oh breathe thy loving Spirit

into every troubled breast!

Let us all in thee inherit,

let us find the promised rest;

take away our love of sinning;

Alpha and Omega be;

end of faith as its beginning,

set our hearts at liberty.

4 Finish now thy new creation;

pure and spotless let us be;

let us see thy great salvation

perfectly restored in thee,

changed from glory into glory

till in heaven we take our place,

till we cast our crowns before thee,

lost in wonder, love and praise.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation to the Lord’s Supper**

**The Invitation**

**Communion Hymn** **#543-** “Here, O my Lord, I see thee” vs. 1-3

1 Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;

here would I touch and handle things unseen,

here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,

and all my weariness upon thee lean.

2 Here would we feed upon the bread of God,

here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven;

here would we lay aside each earthly load,

here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;

this is the heavenly table for us spread;

here let us feast, and, feasting, still prolong

this fellowship in thee, our living bread.

**Affirmation of Faith - Apostle’s 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, 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.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:** BoP #564

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up you hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Prayer ending with

*. . . we join with the whole creation*

*to lift our hearts in joyful praise.*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes**

**in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer ending with

*. . . proclaim the mystery of the faith*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Prayer ending with … and the people say

**Amen.**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Communion Hymn #543-** “Here, O my Lord, I see thee” vs. 4,5

4 Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear.

The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;

the bread and wine remove, but thou art here,

nearer than ever, still our shield and sun.

5 We have no help but thine, nor do we need

another arm but thine to lean upon;

it is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;

our strength is in thy might, thy might alone.

**\*\*Benediction** - Go Now in Peace (Don Besig)

Go now in peace Never be afraid

God will go with you each hour of every day

Go now in faith Steadfast, strong, and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, And show you believe

Reach out to others So all the world can see.

God will be there Watching from above

Go now in peace, In faith, and in love

Amen, amen, 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.

A close up of flowers

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

We extend our sincere condolences to Sharon Mason and her family on the recent loss of her beloved cousin, Ian Hamilton Rogers, formerly of Oxford, NS.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Meetings:**

* **Today** – We will celebrate Holy Communion followed by the Annual Meeting after morning service.
* **Sun., Apr. 27th – 3:00p.m. – Memorial Hymn Sing** –

The Worship & Music Team is in the early stages of planning the hymn sing. We are looking for your suggestions for the congregational hymns that will be sung that day and will choose those hymns from your suggestions. Please submit your suggestions to any member of the W&M Team by March 30th.

**Sun., Apr. 13th, - 3:00p.m.** - Union Presbyterian Church, Thorburn, is hosting a Memorial Hymn Sing in remembrance of family and friends we have lost, honoring someone special to us, or someone who may be going through a difficult time in their lives. A selection of old and new favorites will be performed by: Kenny Rockey, Westville Salvation Army Worship Team, Valerie and Michael Crichton, Bonnie & Pastor Alan Klein and the combined choirs of Union Presbyterian and Little Harbour Presbyterian Church. Following the Hymn Sing, we invite you to join us for lunch and a time of fellowship in the Church Hall. To make a request or a donation, contact Liz Archibald, 902-931-0041 or Jane Taylor, 902-755-4408 (**requests must be submitted** **by Apr. 5th**). Hope to see you there!

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Reader:** Sharon Mason

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office) – Louise Gillis

James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Ellen Jardine

**EARLY CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:** Lynne Ann & Lois MacLellan