**First Presbyterian Church**

A logo with a cross and a crown of thorns

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Sunday, March 30th, 2025**

The Fourth Sunday in Lent - Baptism

Minister:  **The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr**

Director of Music: **Kathleen Howard**

Reader: **Mark Leslie**

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**Welcome to worship!** Thank you for joining us from wherever you are! In-person services of worship continue, with online options available for those who are more comfortable worshipping from home.



**Information for In-Person Worship**

**\* ACCESSIBLE WASHROOM FACILITIES** for all people are available **on the Sanctuary level**. These washrooms are found through the doors behind the Choir Loft - right turn - straight ahead. Please feel free to use these washrooms whenever necessary!

**\* CHILDREN’S MINISTRY –** TheChildren are invited to join Denise Kent, our C.E. Coordinator, and volunteers, in the Lower Hall for a time of fun and faith-centered activities following the Baptism this morning.

**\* HEARING IN THE SANCTUARY -** First Church has available a system of FM RECEIVERS and HEADSETS. They are for use by those who find it difficult to hear in the Sanctuary. If you would like to use one this morning, visit our Sound Technician.

\* **COFFEE HOUR** – You are invited to join us for coffee and fellowship in the Church Hall this morning following worship. To access the Hall, go through the doors behind the choir loft (or use the lift) and down the stairs. Just follow your nose to delicious treats, stimulating conversation and great fellowship. To volunteer to host, bake, or bring food to any coffee hour sign the sheet in the Church Hall or call Tamara Chapman.

**ASSISTING YOU THIS MORNING**

Greeter: **Verna Brown** Elevator: **Lloyd Osmond /Mark Leslie**

Sound and Video Team **– Quentin Robinson, Kade LeBrun**

**Michel LaBonte and Mark Leslie**

**NEED A RIDE?**

**Call Executive Taxi!**

A free service provided by your M.O.V.E. Committee

**\*** Our website and social media accounts:

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**\*** YouTube Channel: [**https://www.youtube.com/ @firstpresbyterianchurchbro482/streams**](https://www.youtube.com/%20@firstpresbyterianchurchbro482/streams)

**\*** **Cogeco/Channel 10/700 Services** every Sunday at 7 am. and 5:30 pm.

**\* For pastoral care or assistance**, please call the Church Office at 613-345-5014 or 613-340-3310. You may also call or text Reverend Marianne at 613-449-5042.

***the people of God gather….***

***The liturgical colour for this Sunday is Purple.***

***Purple marks the seasons of penitence and preparation (Advent and Lent).***

The Organ Prelude **Arioso** *J. S. Bach*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship God This liturgy was written by the Reverend Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls.

Minister: Like the prodigal son, we sometimes waste our lives

**All: running toward arrogant and unthinking excess.**

Minister: Like the older brother, we sometimes lose our way

**All: resenting the blessings others receive.**

Minister: But to all, Christ offers grace - a new creation and a reconciled world.

**All: So let us be glad and rejoice in the steadfast love of the Lord.**

When we respond to poverty, hunger and conflict in our global village, we discover God’s resurrecting power. The hungry are fed, the vulnerable are cared for, the sick are healed, and the poor are raised up.



**This Lenten season, let us faithfully respond to Christ’s call to serve those in need.**

Opening Hymn # 706: **Come let us sing** *Words & Music: Public Domain*

**1. Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,**

**tender and true, tender and true;**

**out of the heart of the Father above,**

**streaming to me and to you:**

**wonderful love, wonderful love, dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**2. Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell**

**joyfully came, joyfully came,**

**came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,**

**sharing their sorrow and shame:**

**seeking the lost, seeking the lost, saving, redeeming at measureless cost.**

**3. Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet:**

**why do they roam? why do they roam?**

**Love only waits to forgive and forget;**

**home weary wanderers, home:**

**wonderful love, wonderful love, dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**4. Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love.**

**Come and abide, come and abide,**

**lifting my life till it rises above envy and falsehood and pride:**

**seeking to be, seeking to be**

**lowly and humble, a learner of thee.**

Prayer As We Approach God

Minister: God of Mystery and Mercy, we gather to worship in humility and hope because we trust you have the power to change the world for the better with your love.

**All: We gather to worship you, trusting that no person or situation is beyond your concern, or your embrace.**

Minister: Inspire us with a vision of love that will change the world and our lives

**All: through the love and mercy we meet in Jesus Christ, your Son and our Saviour. Amen.**

The Chancel Choir **O God, How We Have Wandered** *Kevin Nichols*

Prayer of Confession

Minister: God of love and mercy, when we pause for a moment in your presence, the daily details of our lives press in on us.

**All: We recall things left undone, opportunities ignored. We remember careless words spoken, disappointments that trouble our souls. In our hearts, we offer you our misspent moments and missed opportunities and ask for your grace and forgiveness today and always.**

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness

Minister: The apostle Paul reminds us that neither death nor life, things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God for such a promise! The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptismal Hymn # 521: **Child of blessing, child of promise**

*Words: Ronald S. Cole-Turner – Music: STUTTGART*

**1. Child of blessing, child of promise,**

**baptized with the Spirit’s sign,**

**with this water God has sealed you**

**unto love and grace divine.**

**2. Child of love, our love’s expression,**

**love’s creation, loved indeed!**

**Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,**

**into joy and laughter lead.**

**3. Child of joy, our dearest treasure,**

**God’s you are; from God you came.**

**Back to God we humbly give you;**

**live as one who bears Christ’s name.**

**4. Child of God your loving Parent,**

**learn to know whose child you are;**

**grow to laugh and sing and worship,**

**trust and love God more than all.**

Announcement

Minister: Baptism is a gift from God. With visible signs and words of promise, God moves toward us to claim us as children of the new covenant and members of the household of God. In baptism, God acts to unite us to Christ, to deliver us from the power of sin and death and call us into a new life of growth and service. In the sacrament of baptism, the church recognizes God’s covenant of grace. We receive God’s gift with reverent joy and respond in faith and obedience.

Remember the words of Peter on the day of Pentecost: *“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, and for your children, and for all who are far away, every one whom the Lord our God calls.*”

By the waters of baptism and in the power of the Holy Spirit, God claims us and calls each one of us by name. God unites us to Christ in his death and resurrection and grafts us into the body of Christ as members of the church. God washes us clean by forgiving our sin; commissions us to be a royal priesthood with Christ in his ministry to the world; empowers us to live in newness of life as people of the Word; and invites us to be renewed at the Lord’s table until we feast with him in glory. By grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.

The Presentation

Minister: Who comes to receive the gift of baptism?

Elder: On behalf of Session, I present **Annita Jean Marie Bean**, child of Cynthia Ouellette and Devon Bean, to receive the sacrament of baptism. I also present Tiffany Bissonnette Reed and Arthur Reed, godparents to Annita.

Minister: Cynthia and Devon, do you desire Annita to be baptized?

**Parents: We do.**

Renunciation and Affirmation

Minister: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God who has been faithful to us in all generations, do you turn away from sin, renounce all evil powers in the world which rebel against God or oppose God’s rule of justice and love?

**Parents: We do.**

Minister: Do you renounce the ways of sin which separate you from the love of God?

**Parents: We do.**

Minister: Do you turn to Jesus Christ, accepting him as Lord and Saviour, trusting in his grace and love?

**Parents: We do.**

Minister: Do you desire, in dependence on the Holy Spirit, to mature as Christians in the church, to seek the guidance of Christ as you listen for his Word, to celebrate his death and life at the table he provides, and to engage in his mission to the world?

**Parents: We do.**

Minister: Do you promise to raise Annita in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, within the home, and the fellowship of the church?

**Parents: We do.**

Affirmation of the Congregation

Minister: Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Annita, by word and deed, with love and in prayer, encouraging her to follow the way of Christ, and to be a faithful member of the church?

**Congregation: We do.**

Profession of Faith

Minister: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

Minister: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, from where he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Minister: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Minister: We give you thanks, O gracious God, for the gift of your Spirit and the sign of water. In the beginning, when your Spirit moved over the waters, you gave order and life to your planet earth. By the waters of the flood, you cleansed the world, and established with Noah and his family a new beginning for all people. In the time of Moses, you led your people out of slavery through the waters of the sea, making covenant with them in a new land. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ, who was formed in the water of a woman’s womb.

Gracious God, by the gift of water and your Holy Spirit, you sustain all life.

*The minister takes the pitcher of water and pours the water into the font.*

Minister: By the power of your Holy Spirit, by the sign of this water, you cleanse from sin through the death of Jesus Christ, those who receive this sacrament; you raise them to new life through his resurrection, and you graft them into his body, the church. Pour out your Holy Spirit onto this little girl, that she may have power to do your will and continue forever as a servant of Christ to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory now and forever. Amen.

The Act of Baptizing

Minister: Annita Jean Marie Bean, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit of God dwell in you and uphold you, now and forever. Amen.

*The minister takes the child down through the congregation.*

*When the minister returns to the front of the sanctuary, the minister says:*

Annita Jean Marie, you are now received by Christ’s appointment into the holy catholic church. Through baptism, God has made you a member of the household of God to share with Christ in the priesthood of all believers. Be one with us in the church.

Presentation of the Baptismal Certificate

The Aaronic Blessing

**All: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you his peace.**

***to hear God’s word….***

Prayer for Insight and Understanding

Mark: Let us pray. Soften our hearts, O God, as we listen to the words of scripture, so that our hearts may be fertile soil in which you plant your living Word. Amen.

Psalm 32 (read responsively)

Mark: Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**All: Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Mark: When I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**All: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Mark: Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not hide my iniquity.

**All: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Mark: Therefore, let all who are faithful offer pray to you while you may be found; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

**All: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

Mark: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like the horse or the 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, O righteous; shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

Reading from Scripture: **Luke 15: 1-3** and **11b-32** *New International Version (NIV)*

Mark: **The Parable of the Lost Son**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Then Jesus told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’  So, the father divided his property between them. “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So, he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him. He ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. His father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I have been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’”

Mark: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God within us, and for the word of God around us. **People: Thanks be to God.**

The Chancel Choir: **How Can I Keep From Singing?** *arr. Andy Beck*

The Meditation **Failure and Forgiveness**

Guest Speaker: **Mark Hamilton**, Managing Director – Gracefield Camp

When I graduated high school, having completed my OACs at the Walmart on Baseline Road in Ottawa, which at the time was known as Laurentian High School, I headed west. Stopping for 3 years in Saskatchewan for Bible College. I then did a 4th year living in Alberta and going back to Saskatchewan monthly to complete my degree while I interned at Crossfield Baptist Church. If you had asked me then, I would have been certain that my life would be spent in one way or another in full time ministry.

I headed into southeastern BC, in a small city called Rossland and along with some local folks there, we started a church. When I felt that God was directing me to move on, I headed to Langley, BC (suburb of Vancouver) and started to work towards working with an organisation called Athletes in Action. Circumstances dictated a period of deeper reflection, and I felt as though God was calling me to something different. I took a job at a golf course to make money and continued to work with AIA as a volunteer.

As time passed, people who did not know me before found out that I used to be a “preacher”. I would get asked whether I would ever consider going back into ministry full time. I responded that because I knew the story of Jonah, I would not say no, instead I preferred to say I was open if God directed it, so that I could continue to enjoy boat rides on my friend Darren’s boat. All kidding aside, I did not expect that God would direct me back into full time ministry work, but as may be obvious, eventually I felt God’s direction, and I arrived in Gracefield, driving my truck.

Jonah is unique among the books of the prophets, which are typically collections of God’s words spoken through a prophet. This book does not really focus on the words of a prophet; rather, it is a subversive story about a prophet who resents and resists his God for loving his enemies. Jonah is one of the books referred to as the minor prophets which are the last 12 books of the Old Testament. The book of Jonah is written with a literary symmetry. **Chapters 1 and 3** tell the story of Jonah’s encounters with non-Israelites, first with some sailors, and later with the Ninevites. Each of these stories offers a contrast between Jonah’s selfishness and the humility and repentance of the people who did not follow God. **Chapters 2 and 4** contain prayers of Jonah, one a prayer of repentance(ish), and the other a prayer in which Jonah calls God out for being too merciful and too kind.

The story has stereotyped characters who, ironically, do the exact opposite of what you would expect. The prophet, a man of God, who rebels against, and cannot stand, his own God. The sailors, who are supposed to be immoral pagans, have soft repentant hearts and turn quickly to God in humility. The king of the most powerful murderous empire on Earth who humbles himself because of Jonah’s five-word sermon—even his cows, sheep and other livestock join in the repentance. This kind of story fits in with what we would today call satire - stories about well-known figures or character types in extreme circumstances, using humour and irony to critique their stupidity and character flaws. So we will jump in halfway through the story in Chapter 3…

***Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time: “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.” This time Jonah obeyed the Lord’s command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all.***

The recorded words of God here are the secret as to why I picked this passage. As I read this passage, I was struck by the fact that there is no sarcasm, no rebuke, no threat of other large animals that God could use to return Jonah back to the starting point. In fact, the only thing that sort of gives away the fact that this is 3:1 and not 1:1 is that God says “deliver the message I have given you” instead of giving the message.

***On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!” The people of Nineveh believed God’s message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow.***

Jonah’s sermon is 8 words long in English but only 5 words long in Hebrew. It certainly does not seem that he has put in his best effort. I mean I tend not to preach for a long time, but Jonah is on a whole different level here when he preaches to the people of Nineveh and basically gives the bare minimum of information. He never mentions God… He never mentions repentance… He never even mentions what they are doing wrong and yet these people hear his words, and they cry out to God… and they repent?

The part that we did not include in the scripture reading is the reaction of the king who hears and makes a decree that even the livestock should participate in the repentance and the fasting, and that they should stop their violence towards their neighbour.

***When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.***

It is interesting that there is a difference between the chapter 1 repentance and the chapter 3 version. In Chapter 1 we are told that the sailors were awestruck and that they turned to God and vowed to worship Him. However, the Ninevites repent and turn from their violence but there is interestingly no mention of a spiritual component to this. I say that this is interesting because of the social change in Nineveh and that was enough to trigger God’s mercy to overtake God’s wrath. Either way the spoiler alert is that Chapter 4 tells us that Jonah was ticked off that God did not destroy them.

**The Prodigal Prophet**

Some of the reading I did for this message pointed out how many similarities there are between the story recorded in the book of Jonah and the story of the prodigal son that Jesus told. It has even been suggested that Jesus was perhaps drawing on the story of Jonah to tell his parable. However, in the case of Jonah, he actually plays the role of both sons in the story of the prodigal son. In the first half of the book Jonah plays the role of the Prodigal Son, who runs away and rebels against the father. Like the prodigal he returns home when he is out of options. Jonah says yes the second time God asks.

In the second half of the book Jonah plays the role of the older brother, who stays home and does what he is supposed to do and resents his father forgiving his brother and welcoming him home. If we had time to carry on to chapter 4 we would see how Jonah eventually reveals that he resents God for NOT destroying Nineveh. He laments his own lack of understanding of who God is. Much like we often can do. The Old Testament can be hard to understand at times because we can really struggle to see how God can be both JUST and MERCIFUL.

It is hard for me to not see parallels to what we see in our world today. Like Jonah, we are quick to anger and slow to forgive. We accelerate our own rhetoric while condemning that of the other, (our Ninevites). Our minds, words, newscasts and social media feeds are filled with a desire for OUR justice, but is it God’s justice? The mercy we offer is contingent on agreement and we are far more interested in retaliation. **“Love is the only thing that can turn an enemy into a friend”**. MLK

**Overturned**

The last word of Jonah’s sermon to the Ninevites (destroyed) has a bit of a double meaning. It can mean destroyed or overthrown as many of our translations of the bible say but it can also be translated as OVERTURNED - meaning to be transformed or changed as is the case in 1 Samuel 10:6 when Samuel the prophet tells King Saul that “he will be changed into a different person.”

So, what is a satire without the irony that Jonah’s prophecy was fulfilled, just not in the way that he wanted it to be. Nineveh was transformed by God’s mercy and not destroyed. The book of Jonah ends on a cliffhanger, after Jonah has vented that God should not have shown mercy, and then he had a vine that gave him shade for a day, and then it died and so he is mad about that too. Thankfully God is given the final word:

Then the Lord said, “You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals. Should I not feel sorry for such a great city?” The END.

No word on Jonah’s response, but I tend to think that what is important is our response and not Jonah’s. The book of Jonah acts as a mirror and we see the worst parts of ourselves magnified back at as. So, we are left to answer the tough question: Are you okay with God loving YOUR enemies? Hopefully we are glad that God loves his enemies. Amen.

Blessing the Word in our Lives

Mark: Through the Word heard today, Christ calls us to bring the Good News of healing and hope, of love and peace for all. Amen.

Hymn # 194:  **Come, let us to the Lord our God** *Words & Music: Public domain*

**1. Come, let us to the Lord our God**

**with contrite hearts return;**

**our God is gracious, nor will leave the desolate to mourn.**

**2. God’s voice commands the tempest forth**

**and stills the stormy wave;**

**God’s arm is strong and swift to strike, but also strong to save.**

**3. The night of sorrow long has reigned,**

**but dawn shall bring us light;**

**God shall appear, and we shall rise with gladness in God’s sight.**

**4. Then let us know, let us press on**

**to know our God the Lord,**

**whose coming is as sure as dawn, whose name shall be adored.**

**5. As dew upon the tender grass**

**diffusing fragrance round,**

**as rain that ushers in the spring and cheers the thirsty ground,**

**6. so shall God’s presence bless our souls**

**and shed a joyful light,**

**that hallowed morn shall chase away the sorrows of the night.**

***Responding in love with thanksgiving***

Prayers of the People, the Lord’s Prayer and Choral Amen

Minister: Gracious God, you have called us together as your people, to be the church of Jesus Christ. Make us one in faith and discipleship, breaking bread together and telling the good news, so that the world may believe you are love, turn to your ways, and live in the light of your truth. Faithful God,

**People: embrace us with your hope.**

Minister: Creator God, you made all things and called them good. We pray for the earth in its vulnerability, depleted by our lifestyle choices and our economic expectations. Inspire reverence for the earth in all people. Guide us all to make wiser choices for the sake of your creation. Help us use resources wisely, with future generations in mind, guarding the fragile balances you have set between many precious species. Faithful God,

**People: embrace us with your hope.**

Minister: Jesus Christ, Prince of peace, you taught us of God’s reconciling grace, speak to the hearts of all your people in this time when so many neighbours and nations sit in judgment on each other, provoking conflict and resentment. Teach us how to seek peace on earth together. Call those in positions of power and influence to work for the common good. Turn us away from anger, fear, violence or vanity, which can turn neighbour against neighbour and nation against nation. May all who claim your name be known as makers of peace. Faithful God,

**People: embrace us with your hope.**

Minister: O Christ, healer of hearts and hopes, you desire health and wholeness for each one of us. We pray that those who have lost their livelihoods may find true abundance. Give rest and renewal to those who are broken in body, mind or spirit, and bring comfort and hope to all who face loss and loneliness. In silence we lift before you the names of those on our hearts today. Faithful God,

**People: embrace us with your hope.**

Minister: Spirit of power and promise, embrace us with hope this day so that we may live faithfully, encouraging each other by the commitment we see in Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together:

**All: 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 debts,** **as we forgive our debtors.**  **Lead us not into temptation,** **but deliver us from evil,** **for thine is the kingdom, and the power,** **and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

The People’s Offering for the Work of Christ’s Church

Invitation to the Offering

Minister: Scripture tells us that in Christ there is a new creation. Everything has become new! What new things can God do with the gifts we offer today? With expectant hearts, let us place in God’s hands what we have to offer in Jesus’s name.

You can give…..

**\*** by pre-authorized remittance (**P.A.R.**) (<https://presbyterian.ca/plannedgiving/pre-authorized-remittance-par-program/>). Contact the Church Office.

**\*** by **e-transfer** to [firstkirk@truespeed.ca](mailto:firstkirk@truespeed.ca)

**\*** by **mail** to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 885, 10 Church Street, Brockville, Ont., K6V 5W1

Offering Praise Song # 830

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication

Minister: We place these gifts into your hands, O God. Bless them with your transforming grace so that they may become seeds springing up with new life in the world you love. Fill our hearts with that same grace so we can bring hope to weary and worried lives in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sending Hymn # 674: **In the bulb there is a flower** *Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth*

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**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 the 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.**

Benediction

Minister: Forgiven and beloved ones of God, go now in peace, sharing with others the Good News of God’s love. Help those in need. Give and receive from each other the joy of peace. And may the grace, strength and hope of God, Parent, Son and Spirit, be with you today and always. Amen.

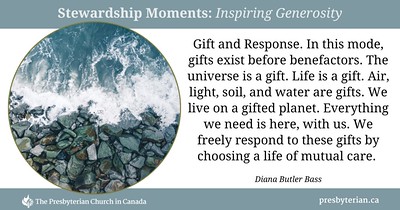
Choral Amen *Words & Music: Douglas Nolan*

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**Tender Shepherd, gently lead us, guide us as we go our way.**

**Gentle Lamb, protect and keep us safe within your heart to stay. Amen.**

The Organ Postlude **Jesus, meine Freude**



*Johann Walther*

**Happy Birthday to:**

(**Mar. 31st to April 5th**)

**MAX CHAPMAN – Apil 1st**

19-year-old Evidence Mhango is in her final year of secondary school in Malawi. She has endured numerous challenges to reach this milestone, including walking 15 km daily. Despite the long distance and societal pressures to abandon her studies, Evidence remains determined to finish school. The PWS&D-supported Every Youth Empowered project has played a crucial role in motivating Evidence to work harder. Joining the in-school club introduced and led by project volunteers, she discovered a passion for quiz competitions and gained the confidence to participate in interschool contests. The competitions enhanced her critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, boosted her academic performance and gave her self-assurance. Evidence shares, “My dream is to become a university lecturer, and nobody will take that away from me.”



Copies of the **APRIL PRAYER CALENDAR** are available this morning on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary.

Copies of the **LENT/EASTER EDITION** of the **CHALLENGE** will be available in the Church Office during Coffee Hour.

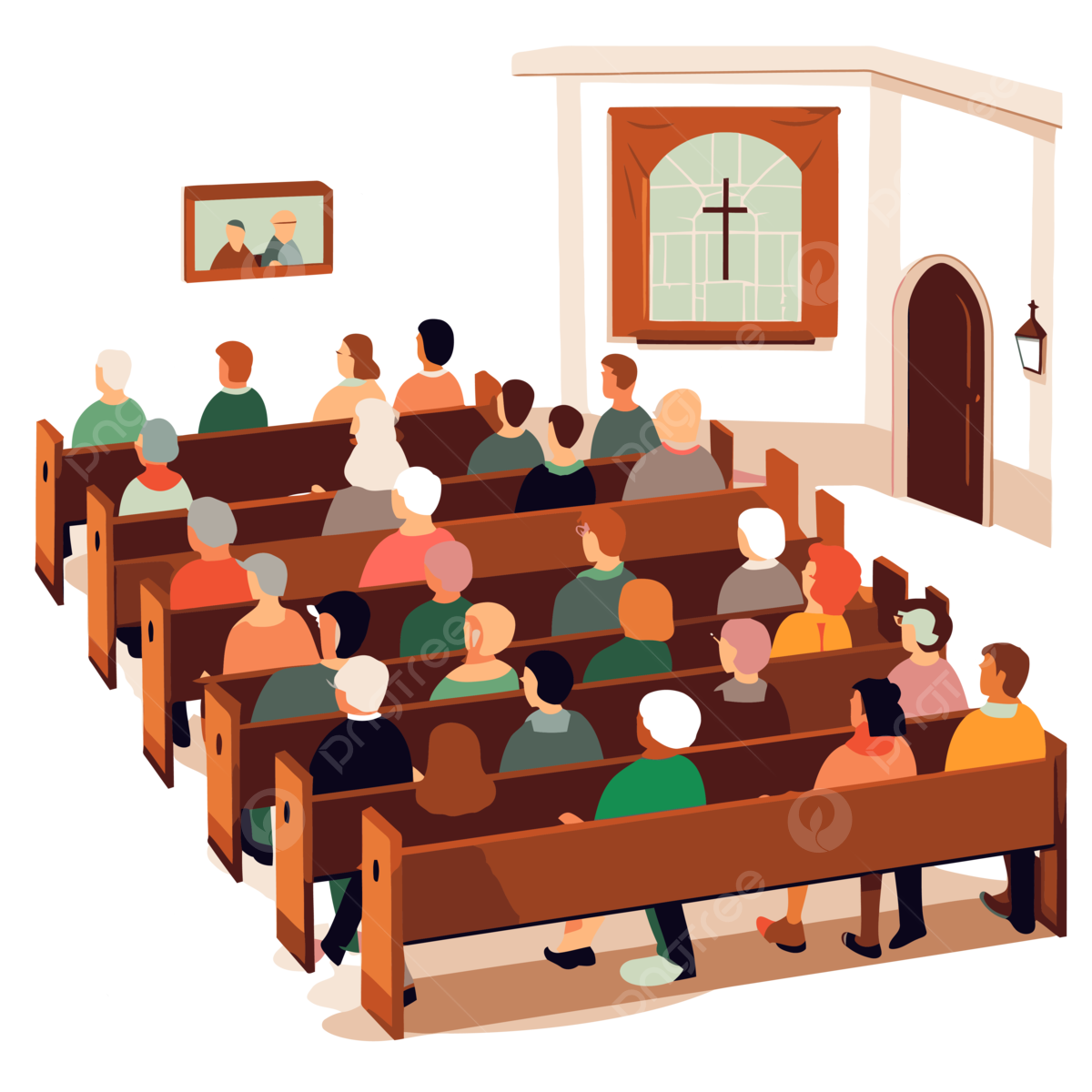
**Office Hours** – March 31st to April 4th

**Monday, March 31st – 10 am. to 11:30 & 1 pm. to 4:30 pm.  
Tuesday, April 1st –** **10 am. to 4:30 pm.**

**Wednesday, April 2nd – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.**

**Thurs., April 3rd – 10 am. to 11:30 & 1 pm. to 4:30 pm.  
Friday, April 4th – 10 am. to 1:30 pm.**

*A Mission Moment from The PCC*



**Dates for Your Calendar**

The Season of Lent began on Sunday, March 9th,

continues for five Sundays, then Holy Week begins.

Palm Sunday with Communion – April 13th

Maundy Thursday with Communion

April 17th – 7 pm.

Good Friday Walk of the Cross – April 18th

starting at the Court House at 9:30 am.

Ecumenical Good Friday Worship –April 18th

at Wall Street United Church at 11 am.

Easter Sunday – April 20th – 11 am.

Copies of the Spring edition of the **PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTION**

are available on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary. Look at pages 31 & 33, to see pictures of our Sunday Supper Ministry, the children’s PWS&D project and P.A. Day Camps held here at First Church.

[**presbyterian.ca › presbyterian-connection**](https://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=AwrNOZ6iptxnOMEMv1wXFwx.;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1742542628/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fpresbyterian.ca%2fpresbyterian-connection%2f/RK=2/RS=8LjBNU2Cxq3ccP53NTlEmos8b3I-)

**Meeting of the Congregation**

On Sunday, April 6th, following the Service of Worship there will be a **Meeting of the Congregation**. It will be a meeting to bring people up to date on the Capital Project. AND ….. there may be some motions to consider!



**Journey through Lent with Reverend Marianne**

Reverend Marianne will be recording and posting short Lenten services weekly through Lent. The services can be accessed on the Church YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchbro482>

April 6th is **LOAVES & FISHES Sunday -** Our Church supports the work of this restaurant with our donations of money and time. This ministry assists so many and we are thankful to be a part of it. Donations of food can be left in the basket at the rear of the Sanctuary or delivered to the Church Office (macaroni type pasta and coffee are great choices) during the week. Donations of money are welcome in your regular offering envelopes or online donations. Please mark all envelopes clearly. Thanks.



**MEN’ BREAKFAST!**

**Saturday, APRIL 5th, 2025**

**at Stacked Restaurant**

**Email Quentin at** [thesesssion@truespeed.ca](mailto:thesesssion@truespeed.ca) **to attend.**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**APRIL CALENDAR**

**LOAVES & FISHES SUNDAY -** 1st Sunday of each month

**CRAFT & CHAT** Tues. afternoons - Parlour – 1 to 4 pm.

**FPC HAND BELL CHOIR**

Thursday Afternoons at 4:30 – Red Room

**FPC CHANCEL CHOIR –** Thurs. Afternoons - 3 pm. – Choir Rm; Sun. Mornings - 9:30 am. - Choir Rm

**SUNDAY SUPPER MINISTRY** – 4th Sunday of each month – Church Hall

**ONGOING PROJECTS:** **Grocery Bags, Egg Cartons,** **Pop Cans** (Maintenance)**, Breakfast Bags** (Food Bank)**, Sunday Supper Ministry**

**COMMUNITY GROUPS using the Church Building:**

EMBERS/GUIDES – Monday Evenings at 6 pm. in the Church Hall

DSLG Cooking Class - Thursday mornings – Thursday afternoons; DSLG Cricut Group - Tuesday afternoons

BGH DAY HOSPICE – Wednesday Mornings & Afternoons in the Parlour and Church Hall.

Mar 30 Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

April 01 **Meeting of B.A.M.A.** – Noon at the Pier Christian Church

April 02 **Meeting of the M.O.V.E. Committee** – 10 am. in the Church Hall.

April 05 **Men’s Breakfast** – at Stacked Restaurant at 8:15 am.

April 06 **MORNING WORSHIP (Fifth Sunday in Lent) -** 11 am. in the Sanctuary

Guest Musicians – First Presbyterian Church Hand Bell Choir

Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

April 09 **Meeting of the SESSION** – 7 pm. in the Red Room.

April 11 **P.A. DAY CAMP** – 9 am. – 3 pm. in the Church Hall.

April 13 **MORNING WORSHIP (Palm Sunday) – with Communion -** 11 am. in the Sanctuary

Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

Christina Duncan leads worship at St. Lawrence Lodge.

April 17 **EVENING WORSHIP (Maundy Thursday) – with Communion -** 7 pm. in the Sanctuary April 18 **GOOD FRIDAY WALK of the CROSSS –** 9:30 am. on the steps of the Court House.

**ECUMENICAL WORSHIP** – 11 am. at Wall Street United Church.

April 20 **EASTER SUNDAY -** 11 am. in the Sanctuary

Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

April 26 **Brockville Community Cleanup -** 9 am. at George Street Park

Hot Chocolate and Cookies following the cleanup, in the Church Hall.

April 27 **MORNING WORSHIP (Mission Awareness Sunday) -** 11 am. in the Sanctuary

Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

Reverend Marianne leads worship at the Wedgewood.

**Lenten Noon Hour Mid-Week Services 2025 at Wall Street United Church**



Meeting weekly on successive Wednesdays at 12 noon until April 16th. Services are followed by a light soup lunch at 12:30 pm. Services will be in-person and on Facebook live.

Apr. 2nd – Rev. Donald Wachenschwanz Apr. 9th – Rev. Wendy McLean Apr. 16th – Reverend Catherine Oxenford-Grant

**P.A. DAY CAMP – Friday, April 11th, 2025**

Our Mission Project for this P.A. Day Camp is in support of **QueenCare** in Brockville. **QueenCare** is a charity that equips birthing women, and their families, by providing education, in-home support, and community connections. Items that are needed on an ongoing basis include diapers (size 4, 5, & 6), baby wipes, and adult size M, LG and XL disposable underwear.

If you would prefer to make a financial contribution, please bring your donation in an envelope with your name and address on it. Mark it “**QueenCare**” and the Church will make sure it is forwarded to Interval House. Thank you for your support!! Spaces are still available for more campers. Email [firstkirk@truespeed.ca](mailto:firstkirk@truespeed.ca) for a registration form or to submit a form. The cost of the day is $10/camper or $20/family. Campers bring their own lunch and are prepared with clothing to keep warm outside.



***Highly populated WiFi environments: Isn't that an interesting phrase? Guess what, with all the "wireless" mics, page turners, tablets and other equipment in the sanctuary, this has become a "highly populated WIFI environment". Add to that everyone who walks in with a cell phone, and we have a problem maintaining connections. You can help by turning off any cell phone, Bluetooth or other WiFi device you have in the sanctuary if possible. (Not just muting but actually turning off). Thank you.***

**The Sacrament of Baptism**

This morning, we welcome into the body of Christ, through the Sacrament of Baptism,

**ANNITA JEAN MARIE BEAN**

daughter of Devon Joseph Bean

and Cynthia Elizabeth Ouellette

and

Goddaughter of Arthur Reed

and Tiffany Bissonnette - Reed

We are delighted to welcome the family and their friends to share in this special event and pray that God will bless Annita and her family in the years ahead.



**Creating an Environment for Success**

Any instance of violence, whether in public spaces or in the home, is one too many. PWS&D’s partner in Nicaragua is helping to create safe environments that foster equitable, non-violent relationships within the family and community. The project works to protect children and adolescents, especially girls, who might be at risk, promote their rights, and strengthen and improve family dynamics.

One 13-year-old girl, who joined the project with her mother, reflects on what has changed. “I have learned a lot, and I see things differently. At home I can talk more, and my mom tries to help me. I feel like we have changed a lot, and I feel safer. I know that I want to continue studying and learning and improving and I am motivated to do it. I think I can do a lot of good and beautiful things to help my family, and in the future, to help other girls like me.”

**This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to help build safe environments where families and communities can thrive.**

A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated

A poster for a musical performance

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

### Friday, April 11th, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 12th, 2025 at 2 pm.

Saturday, April 12th, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 13th, 2025 at 2 pm.

Brockville Arts Centre

A bowl with people in the background

AI-generated content may be incorrect.



