

March 8, 2020  
9:00 a.m.

## Order of Service

### GATHERING

As followers of Jesus  
we will love the Lord our God  
with all our hearts,  
with all our souls  
and with all our minds.  
And we will love our neighbors  
as ourselves and serve them  
in the name of Christ.  
*Matthew 22:37, 39*

*Love God  
Follow Jesus  
Serve in Spirit*

*If you are visiting with us, we welcome you and encourage you to sign the visitor card in the pew. Visitors are urged to leave their address, to receive a letter of welcome from the pastor and be placed on the newsletter email list, if desired.*

#### PRELUDE

– Peter Christian Lutkin

*Forty Days and Forty Nights*

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

– Edith McNeill

*The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.  
His mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning.  
Great is Your faithfulness, O Lord.

Great is Your faithfulness, O Lord. Great is Your faithfulness.

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#### \*PRAYER OF ADORATION

#### \*HYMN

*Blessed Be The Lord God Almighty*

– Bob Fitts

Father in Heaven, how we love You.

We lift Your Name in all the earth.

May Your Kingdom be established in our praises,  
As Your people declare Your mighty works.

Chorus: Blessed be the Lord God Almighty,  
Who was and is and is to come.

Blessed be the Lord God Almighty, Who reigns forevermore.

Father of mercy, be exalted. May Jesus' name be lifted high,  
For the sacrifice of love has won my pardon,  
And His resurrection power gives me life. (Chorus)

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\*Please rise in body or spirit.

### Anthem Text:

Someone's walkin' with a cross  
on a dry and dusty road.  
Someone's walkin' with a cross,  
what a heavy, heavy load.  
Someone's walkin' with a cross.  
With each step He's slowin' down.  
Someone's walkin' with a cross,  
and He falls onto the ground.  
Carry my cross for me, O Lord,  
carry my sins for me. Suffer and  
die for me, O Lord, suffer upon  
the tree. Someone's walkin' with a  
cross, as the people gather 'round.  
Someone's walkin' with a cross.  
With each step He's slowin' down.  
Someone's walkin' with a cross,  
and He's walkin' to set me free.  
Someone's walkin' with a cross,  
and that someone should be me.  
Oh, He carried my cross for me.  
My Lord carried my sins for me.  
He suffered and died for me.  
My Lord suffered upon that tree.  
He suffered for me.

### ~ Questions for Reflection ~

- From what or whom might you be running away?
- What might you rather run towards?
- What have been the wilderness times of your life and what have you learned from them?
- How can you empty yourself to make space for the Holy during this season of Lent?

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Redeemer, we confess that we are a people of ashes and dust. You have claimed us in your covenant, yet we forget your steadfast love. You seek us out in the wilderness, yet we continue to wander in our sin. O Lord, may we come to you with the penitence of the prodigal son, confessing with contrite hearts that we have sinned against heaven and in your sight.

Forgive us, God of grace. Wash us clean, once again, so that we may return to you and follow in your holy way. You bestow blessings on every returning wanderer. Call us home to you and guide our feet along that path. Through Christ we pray; Amen.

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### \*GLORIA PATRI

#579

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.

## PROCLAMATION

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of the Lenten journey, help us to discern your still, small voice. Open us to change, growth, and transformation. Send your Spirit that we might hear and obey your Word, and follow in the way of your leading. We pray in the power of your Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ; Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT                      Psalm 32:1-7                      Page 440  
Leader:                      This is the Word of the Lord.  
People:                      Thanks be to God.

MOMENT WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES                      Chris McKee

ANTHEM                      *Someone's Walkin'*                      – Patti Drennan  
Sanctuary Choir, Soloist Dr. Glenn Bennett, Pianist Bea Towe

NEW TESTAMENT                      Luke 15:11-32                      Page 850

SERMON                      Rev. Ann Conklin  
Parable of the Prodigal Son  
Wasteful and Wanton: The Younger Son

## RESPONDING

\*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION                      #298  
*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

\*CREED ~ excerpt from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ,  
Fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

OFFERING

*You are invited to lay a stone representing a sin or a sorrow,  
a burden or a betrayal, at the foot of the cross during the offertory.*

OFFERTORY *Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing* – Terry Osman  
(Based on the tune "Sicilian Mariners")  
First Ringers

\*DOXOLOGY (Tune: *Toulon*)

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to You;  
use them Your holy purpose to fulfill;  
Tokens of love and pledges brought anew,  
that our whole life is offered to Your will

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SENDING

\*HYMN *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* #81

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE (Tune: He Leadeth Me)

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!  
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.  
He leadeth me, He leadeth me, by His own hand He leadeth me;  
His faithful follower I would be, for by His hand He leadeth me.

POSTLUDE – Gilbert Martin

*Postlude on a Hymn Tune ("Middlebury")*

**Liturgist:** Suzanne Engman

**Greeter:** Jean Chappell

**Ushers:** Thank you to Graham Walker's team. Next week: Robert Harding's team.

**Special Music:** This week's special music is being offered by First Ringers and the Sanctuary Choir, with Soloist Dr. Glenn Bennett. Next Sunday's special music will include the Women's Choir, Organist Barbara Walker, and Director Karen Rudin as we celebrate Women's Sunday. The complete music schedule is available at [fpcmesa.org/worship-planning](http://fpcmesa.org/worship-planning).

**Praise Band:** Erin Skarphol, vocals; Karen Rudin, rhythm guitar/vocals; Mark Ramsey, piano/vocals; Paul Soderquist, drums

**Sound Booth:** Bob Schulz

**Activity bags for children** are available at the back of the sanctuary. These are for use during worship.

**Visitors** are encouraged to visit the Information Kiosk by the main doors of the sanctuary to learn more about the church's programs.

**Audio assistance** is available for those who may be unable to adequately hear the service. Please see an usher for assistance.

**Check the bulletin boards in the church office** for information regarding events or opportunities in the life of the church and the community.

**Prayer Chain:** If you or a family member need special prayers, email [prayer@fpcmesa.org](mailto:prayer@fpcmesa.org) or call the church office. If the prayer request is for a friend, you must first have *permission from that friend* to make the request public on the Prayer Chain.

**Bulletin Recycling.** If you do not want to take your bulletin home, please take it to the recycling basket at the back of the sanctuary.

**If you are hospitalized or confined at home** due to illness, call the church office at 480-964-8606 to let us know. Please note: If you are in the hospital, let us know what your room number is. In order to comply with new stricter government regulations to protect patients' privacy, hospitals refuse to provide any information, including room numbers.

**Sanctuary Flowers** are a way for you to recall a special person or event in your life. Flowers are available at a cost of \$50 or you may notify the church office of your desire to furnish your own flowers. You may take the flowers that Sunday or leave them for the Deacons to deliver. If you are interested in providing flowers, fill out the form found at the Kiosk or in the office. After completion, please return it to the office, along with a check and instructions.

**Activities for the Week of March 8, 2020**

<b>Today,</b> <b>3/8</b>	9:00a.m.    Worship, Sanctuary 10:15a.m.    Christian Education 11:00a.m.    HolyGrounds Service, Fellowship Hall
<b>Monday, 3/9</b>	4:00p.m.    Eve Circle, Parlor
<b>Tuesday,</b> <b>3/10</b>	9:30a.m.    Deborah Circle, Parlor 12:00p.m.    Lydia Circle, Parlor 1:00p.m.    Rachel Circle, Library
<b>Wednesday,</b> <b>3/11</b>	8:30a.m.    Dave's Crew 6:00p.m.    First Ringers, Bell Room 7:00p.m.    Choir, Choir Room
<b>Thursday,</b> <b>3/12</b>	6:00p.m.    One Voice 6:30p.m.    Dei Gloriam, Bell Room
<b>Saturday, 3/14</b>	9:30a.m.    Theater Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

**Upcoming Events**

<b>March 15</b>	Women's Sunday
<b>March 22</b>	Commissions & Session meet
<b>March 27, 28, 29</b>	Dinner Theater — Singing in the Rain
<b>April 5</b>	Palm Sunday — Worship in the Courtyard (one service at 10:00 a.m.)
<b>April 9</b>	Maundy Thursday
<b>April 10</b>	Good Friday — Office closed
<b>April 12</b>	Easter Sunday (9:00 and 11:00 services)
<b>April 19</b>	Youth Sunday (one service at 10:00 a.m.)

**Coffee time will follow the service.  
The hosts today are Mike & Stephanie Gerlach.  
Baked goods are provided by Mary Jean Maedche & Ron Wright.**

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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Pastor (ext 102).....	Ann Conklin
Director of Music Ministries (ext 103).....	Mark Ramsey
Minister of Faith Formation (ext 106).....	Chris McKee
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Bookkeeper (Business@fpcmesa.org).....	Rob Kjar
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Pastor Emeritus.....	James R. Bruening

\*\*\*must designate: Pastor, Music, Chris, Pubs, Buildings, Business or Preschool