

The Presbyterian Church at Tenafly



HE WAS IN THE WILDERNESS
FORTY DAYS

For Every Heart a Home

February 22nd, 2026 at 10:30am
1st Sunday of Lent

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie
Liturgist: Mary Jane Eimer
Usher: Noelle and Howard Bryson

Welcome to worship! If you are visiting or here for the first time and would like to stay in touch with us, please consider filling in one of the contact cards that you will find alongside the hymnals or you can use this QR code. These can be placed in the offering plate or handed to an usher. Church School for children happens during the 10:30am worship service. Ask one of the ushers for directions if you would like to take your child through to join in.



Prelude

Welcome, Sharing the Peace and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie

Call to Worship

***Hymn 182** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

Prayer of Approach and Confession in Unison

**God is love and we are God's children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first.**

Kyrie Eleison

Martin sings:	Kyrie Eleison
Congregation and Choir:	Kyrie Eleison
Martin sings:	Christe Eleison
Congregation and Choir:	Christe Eleison
Martin sings:	Kyrie Eleison
Congregation and Choir:	Kyrie Eleison

Declaration of Forgiveness

Liturgist

The 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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power and the glory, forever. **AMEN**



Collect for the Day

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie

Choir Anthem

Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake, by R. Farrant (c.1530-80)

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives: to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart, before thee now and evermore. Amen.

Reading

Romans 5:12-19

Liturgist

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

***Hymn (Psalm 63)**

O God, You are My God Alone (see page 8)

Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Liturgist

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

***Hymn 175**

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie

Sharing our Gifts

If you are visiting or would like to make an extra offering on top of your usual contribution to the church, you can use your smart phone to scan this QR code to make a donation by credit card (3% surcharge) or by debit card (no surcharge). Cash and check donations are always acceptable!

GENERAL OFFERING



***Doxology**

Dedication Prayer

Liturgist

*Hymn 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Benediction and Celtic Amen

Amen, Amen, Alleluia, Amen (x2)

Postlude

***Those who are able, please stand.**

Announcements

NEXT SUNDAY

Communion at 9:30am in the Chapel with band (30 minutes)

10am Coffee Hour in the Church House

Communion at 10:30am in the Sanctuary with choir (one hour)

11:30am Coffee Hour in the Church House

Livestreaming of Worship. Today's service is broadcast live online. You can watch the service again later via our website homepage if you wish to. Huge thanks to our entire technical team.

TODAY - Lunar New Year, Chinese Luncheon. Plan to join us after the 10.30am service to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Your fortune for the day, "Happiness is enjoying good friends and good food." Suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$15 a family.

Benefit Concert with Bob LeClair (oboe) and the Fides String Quartet in aid of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Come enjoy the music of EJ Moeran, Elizabeth Raum and Druzecky in the Sanctuary at 7pm on Saturday February 28th.

This Lent, Pastor Martin invites you to join him on a reflective journey towards Easter. Each day he will post a reflection on something that gives him wonder/awe at something about his experience of the world. This will be balanced by something that brings a sense of woe - sadness, lament. If you'd like to read Martin's reflections you can find them on his Substack, and you can sign up to receive an email notice of the latest one appearing. They will also be published on the church Facebook page and Instagram account.

<https://substack.com/@martinritchie>

This link can also be found in the weekly email newsletter. If you don't get this, contact the office to sign up.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the PCUSA Lent appeal. Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. This Lenten season, please give generously to *One Great Hour of Sharing*. Please bring your offering (including fish banks – available in the Narthex) on Palm Sunday, March 29th. Remember: Giving a little adds up to a lot. Thank you! Mission Committee Co-chairs, Gillian Iappelli and Mary Jane Eimer

The Presby Readers. Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 1st at 4pm at Mary Jane Eimer's home. We will be discussing *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans.

Mad Hatter Costume Tea Party for ages 3 years old through 4th grade accompanied by an adult. Join us for some non-sensical fun on Saturday, March 7th at 3pm. Please register with the QR code or call the church office by March 4th. \$5 per child (payable at the door).



Sanctuary Space is next up on Thursday March 26th at 7pm. Introduction to meditation at 7pm with Jenny Jackson Miller then free time by candlelight with music until 9pm. Experience the gentle power of sharing in this together.

Regular Groups at PCAT

GROUP	WHEN	CONTACT
AA (Morning Glory)	Saturdays 10:30am JHH	Jay McSherry JayMcSherry@earthlink.net
Adventures in Faith	Wednesday 12pm Church House	Pastor Martin pastorpcat@gmail.com
Bell Choir	Tuesdays 4pm Room 203	Jim Millar Dirmusic@tenaflypresby.org
Choir	Sundays 9am	Jim Millar Dirmusic@tenaflypresby.org

Church School and Childcare	Sundays 10:30am	Sherrie Reilley reilleysherrie@gmail.com
Cro-Knitters	Tuesdays 2pm-4pm Lounge	Joan Roselle (201) 569-3819
English Second Language (ESL)	Tuesdays 10am-12pm Church House	Jun Motai Motaicoaching@gmail.com
Mommy/Daddy/and Me		Christina Chan Shanghai68@gmail.com
PresbyReaders	Meets monthly (Sundays at 4pm)	Mary Jane Eimer mjeimer@aol.com
Women's Group		Marilyn Coats-Thomas coathomas@aol.com or Christina Chan Shanghai68@gmail.com
Men's Group		Pastor Martin pastorpcat@gmail.com or Jim Crook rjamescrook@gmail.com

Doodle away . . .

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Look for us on Facebook, Instagram, and X



O God, You Are My God Alone

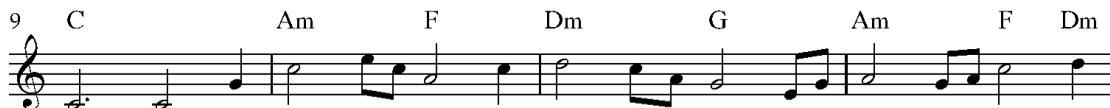
Trad. folk tune



1. O God, you are my God alone, whom ea - ger - ly I
2. Your faith - ful love sur - pass - es life, e - vo - king all my
3. Through - out the night I lie in bed and call you, Lord, to



seek, though long - ing fills my soul with thirst and leaves my bo - dy
praise. Through ev - 'ry day, to bless your name, my hands in joy I'll
mind; in dark - est hours I med - i - tate how God, my strength, is



weak. Just as a dry and bar - ren land a - waits a fresh - ening
raise. My deep - est needs you sat - is - fy as with a sump - tuous
kind. Be - neath the shad - ow of your wing, I live and feel se -



shower, I long with - in your house to see your
feast. So, on my lips and in my heart, your
cure; and dai - ly as I fol - low close, your



glo - ry and your power.
praise has nev - er ceased.
right hand keeps me sure.