

T H I R D

Sunday in Lent



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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The Service for the Lord's Day
3rd Sunday in Lent
March 4, 2018

Boldface type indicates a spoken response.
The asterisk (*) is an invitation to stand if able.

PRELUDE *Gethsemane* Lee Kleinheksel, cornet; Jim Rausch, trombone

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Heaven is declaring God's glory; *Ps. 19:1-4*
the sky is proclaiming God's handiwork.
One day gushes the news to the next,
and one night informs another what needs to be known.
There is no speech; there are no words;
their voices cannot be heard by us.
Yet their sound extends throughout the world;
their words reach the ends of the earth!

*OPENING HYMN #644 *Praise Ye the Lord*
Roxanne Deibel - piano, Evan Hodson – drums, Scott Stewart bass,
Lee Kleinheksel – cornet, Jim and Jacob Rausch – trombone, Arisha Coffee - vocal

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Despite all that God has taught us,
we still act foolishly;
we are still weak.
In the cross of Christ,
we find forgiveness and grace.
We confess our sins,
trusting in God's wisdom and strength
rather than our own.

**Merciful God, how fickle we are; we sin against you
without even knowing it.**

Ps. 19:12–13

**Clear us, we pray, of any unknown sin,
and save us from willfully ignoring your way.
Let your commandments rule and guide us.**

**Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything
except you; keep us faithful.**

Exod. 20:4–5

**Forgive us for failing to honor all
our relationships—
with those closest to us and those
who are distant neighbors.
Help us to speak words of blessing
and kindness,
rather than words that belittle or destroy.
Turn us away from violence, falsehood,
and selfishness.**

Exod. 20:12, 14

Exod. 20:12–17

**Forgive us for thinking everything depends
on our efforts and power,
for you are the God who made us,
led us out slavery,
and has brought us into the community of faith.
Help us to depend on you alone
and to rest in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Exod. 20:2, 8–11

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Brothers and sisters,
in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again,
we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness
with God and with one another!
Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #740 Lead Me, Guide Me (Refrain only)**

*SHARING OUR GIFT OF PEACE FROM CHRIST

QUARTET

“Great and Mighty”

*Roxanne Deibel, Chuck Hodson,
Cammie Hussey, Jim Rausch*

A TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Sheila Wahamaki

CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF WOMEN

Bev Spiwak

A LITANY FOR WOMEN WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

God of Grace, thank you for tranquil, reflective moments when we are able to recognize you in the world. For all your beauty and your wonder, we give you thanks.

For the breath in our bodies, for our hearts and souls, for our connections with one another, we give you thanks and praise.

God of Reconciliation, be present with us when conflicts arise. Remind us that we have a higher calling: to forgive those who wrong us, to pray for those who persecute us, and to seek peace in the midst of strife.

For women with grateful hearts, who have shared their faith with us and responded in kindness and service, we give you thanks and praise.

God of Love, we offer our gratitude to you for those women and men who have comforted us and carried us in their hearts in prayer. For the grace that they have given us day after day, thank you for guiding the way for lives filled with gratitude.

For women, young and old, who do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you, O God, we give you thanks and praise.

Creator God, be present with us as we remember and celebrate your daughters who, with your help, have lived lives of gratitude, reflecting your love and grace.

Give us your peace, which surpasses our understanding and watch over our hearts and our minds, as we rest in Christ Jesus. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 20:1–17 [p. 66 OT]

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:18–25 [p.166 NT]

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Pastor Jim Rausch

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION AND GREAT THANKSGIVING

HYMN OF APPROACH #507

Come to the Table of Grace

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

In Remembrance of Me

FPC Quartet

*Please help us prevent the spread of germs. Hold your communion bread
so you can dip it without your fingers touching the juice.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SHARING OUR PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Freely, Freely"

FPC Quartet

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

#719

We Lift Our Voices

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O Lord our God,
we want to follow all your commandments—
to love only you, not worshiping the things
of this world;
to love our neighbor freely,
not desiring for ourselves something they possess.
Accept these offerings, we pray,
and teach us to be generous,
giving fully of ourselves
that we may truly be the body of Christ in this world. Amen.**

Exod. 20:2–4

Exod. 20:17

*CLOSING HYMN (See insert)

Onward, Christian Soldiers

(Congregation verses 1 & 4; Quartet verses 2 & 3)

*GOD'S BLESSING AS WE GO

*POSTLUDE

It Is Well with My Soul

Lee Kleinheksel, cornet; Scott Stewart, baritone

Question for Reflection

The third Sunday of Lent focuses on the gift of God's law (Exod. 20:1–17). John Calvin (1509–1564) described three uses for the Ten Commandments: First, they show us how to live before God and neighbor, and expose our sins in failing to live as God intends. Second, they instruct our civic or common life, showing us how to live responsibly in the freedom God gives. Third, rather than show us what we must do in order to *receive* God's grace and love, the commandments show us how we should live *because* we are a people who have already received God's grace and love in Jesus Christ. Does God's law restrict or enhance our freedom as human beings?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of heaven and earth,
I listen this morning for the sound of your glory:
in the songs of birds,
in quiet conversations that begin the day,
in easy laughter among friends,
in sunlight's warmth,
pattering rain, or silent snowfall.
Give me ears to hear your glory in its many forms.
Give me eyes to see your glory in its many guises.
Throughout this day, I, too, will proclaim your glory,
your grace, and your love
so that I may be a part of the chorus of praise
that stretches to the ends of the earth.
In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of freedom,
I thank you for claiming me as your own
and for setting me in the midst of the
community of faith.
Today the news was filled with stories of people
who do not live according to your
commandments,
with grievous results.
Lives are shattered
as your ancient tablets of stone are broken
again and again.
And I struggle, too, in my own ways,
to live before you and my neighbors
in faithfulness, generosity, and love.
As the day comes to an end,
I pray for forgiveness for myself
and for this weary world,
confident of your grace and mercy.
Send your gift of Sabbath rest,
and let me sleep in peace as, over and around
me,
night declares to night your power and glory.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Cheryl Hartman, Lay Liturgist; Vic & Ellen Prowant, Richard & Mary Eschman, Greeters; Mick & Susan Homan, Carol Giblin & Ruth Clark, Ushers; Dave & Vella Caruso, Offering Counters; Chuck Hodson & Roxanne Deibel, After Worship Hospitality; Bev Spiwak, Nancy Evans, Carol Giblin, Jeanette Reckell & Kendra Mills, Communion Servers

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Welcome Guests! We're so glad you joined our church family in worship today. Please join us following the worship service in the chapel for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Church World Service Blanket Sunday will be extended through Sunday, March 11th. CWS envelopes are in the pews and \$10 purchases one CWS blanket. Blankets of all sizes, including baby blankets, will be distributed to Every Woman's Place and the Household Pantry at Mission for Area People. Blankets will be collected in the Wickham hallway.

Ladies... you and your friends are invited to the "Around-the-Town Luncheon" at Se4sons Gastropub (inside Muskegon Country Club) on Friday, March 9th at noon. Sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by March 5th.

With our Souper Bowl of Caring donations of \$520 this year, the national donations have reached a total of \$7,667,988 so far! Great job!!!!

Lahey, Nelson and Camp Scholarships are available and posted on the bulletin by the nursery. Lahey and Nelson Scholarships deadline is March 25th. Contact Ellen Prowant or Arisha with questions.

Start thinking about VBS! The theme is "Babylon, Daniel's Courage in Captivity." If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, contact Arisha. Register now at <https://vbspro.events/p/fpcmuskegon-vbs>.

Easter is approaching! Help is needed to stuff eggs and prepare games! The Easter Egg Hunt will be March 25th from 1 – 3 p.m. See Arisha for details.

Sign up for the annual Lenten Breakfast to be held on Saturday, March 24th – 10 a.m. Our speaker will be Judy Konoff, a Hospice aide with Hospice of Michigan.

Lenten Reflections will be held this morning at 11:30 a.m. in the chapel following a time of fellowship. This year we are again blessed by the sharing of church members as they speak to the Lenten theme of "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in harmony." This morning's speaker is Arisha Coffee.

Youth Chit Chat with FPC Holland today from 5:30 – 8 p.m. See Cammie Hussey or Lindsey Piper for details.

Make a spring flower arrangement under the direction of a Wasserman's designer! Materials will be provided at a cost of \$35. Join your friends at Wasserman's on Lakeshore Drive, Thursday, March 15th at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by FPC. Sign up in the hallway.

The **Blood Pressure Clinic** will be held following the worship service in Room 7. A record of your reading can be given to you to take to your doctor if so desired.

The Cents-Ability Offering will be received today. Please contribute generously as the bread pans are passed. The Cents-Ability Offering is received the first Sunday of every month.

The deadline to submit articles for the next issue of the Highland Herald is Sunday, March 11th. Please leave your articles in the newsletter mailbox in the reception office or email them to office@fpcmuskegon.org.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Sunday, March 4

10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Blood Pressure Clinic
11:00 am	Hospitality/BFW Bread Sale
11:00 am	YAC Time
11:30 am	Lenten Reflections
5:30 pm	Chit Chat with FPC Holland
5:30 pm	Marriage Fellowship

Monday, March 5

9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
11:30 pm	Staff Meeting
6:30 pm	Theology Matters

Tuesday, March 6

9:30 am	Moms' Workout Group
2:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Committee
3:00 pm	Member Care Council Mtg.
6:00 pm	Choir Practice
7:15 pm	Gentle Yoga

Wednesday, March 7

1:00 pm	Post-Partum Group
1:00 pm	Bible Study
6:30 pm	Worship & Music Council Mtg.
7:00 pm	Property Council Mtg.

Thursday, March 8

6:30 pm	Faith Development Mtg.
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Friday, March 9

9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
12:00 pm	Ladies Luncheon @ Se4sons

Sunday, March 11

10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Hospitality
11:00 am	YAC Time
11:30 am	Lenten Reflections

Onward, Christian Soldiers

Arthur S. Sullivan
Lyrics: Sabine Baring-Gould

1. On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, march - ing as to war, With the cross of
2. Like a might - y ar - my moves the church of God; Broth - ers, we are
3. Crowns and thrones may per - ish, king - doms rise and wane, But the church of
4. On - ward, then, ye peo - ple, join our hap - py throng; Blend with ours your

Je - sus go - ing on be - fore. Christ, the roy - al Mas - ter, leads a - gainst the
tread - ing where the saints have trod. We are not di - vi - ded, all one bod - y
Je - sus con - stant will re - main. Gates of hell can nev - er 'gainst that Church pre -
voi - ces in the tri - umph song. Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or un - to Christ, the

foe; For - ward in - to bat - tle, — see His ban - ners go.
we; One in hope and doc - trine, — one in char - i - ty.
vail; We have Christ's own prom - ise, — and that can - not fail.
King; This through count - less a - ges — men and an - gels sing.

On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, — march - ing as to — war,

With the cross of Je - sus go - ing on be - fore.