

F I F T H

# Sunday in Lent



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*2577 Wickham Drive*

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***The Service for the Lord's Day  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
March 18, 2018***

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said, "When I am lifted up, I will draw all people  
to myself."

*John 12:32*

Blessed be the God of our salvation  
who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

\*OPENING HYMN #165      *The Glory of These Forty Days*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray for the cleansing of our hearts,  
confessing our sins to the One whose mercy  
is everlasting.

*Ps. 51:10*

**Redeeming God,  
we confess that we have not loved you  
with our whole heart,  
and have not loved our neighbors as we ought;  
we have strayed from your commandments.**

*Ps. 119:10*

**Do not remember our sins, but forgive  
our iniquities,  
that we may fix our eyes on you and sin no more,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Jer. 31:34*

*Ps. 119:15b*

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
May you delight in the joy of your salvation.

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

\*SHARING OUR GIFT OF PEACE FROM CHRIST

HYMN #724                             *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

A TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH                                             Greg Boughton

GOSPEL LESSON                     John 12:20–33 [p. 106 NT]

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON    Hebrews 5:5–10 [p. 220 NT]

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE                     *Life Hidden in a Perfect Disguise*                     Pastor Jim Rausch

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS                                             Matt. 28:19-20

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor:             Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and  
Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

**All:                I do.**

Pastor:             Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and  
showing his love?

**All:                I will, with God's help.**

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith by saying the Apostles' Creed.

**All: 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, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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.**

#### PRESENTATION OF PRAYER SHAWLS

#### PRAYER AND WELCOME

Elder: Together, let us welcome our newest members to our fellowship and shared ministry.

**All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.**

OFFERING

*Registration of Attendance*

OFFERTORY

*Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone*

Chancel Choir

\*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS #644

*Give Thanks, O Christian People* (verse 4)

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**As the high priest Melchizedek blessed Abraham and offered his tithe of bread and wine at your holy altar, may our gifts be made perfect through Christ to glorify you and bless the world. Amen.**

*Gen. 14:18*

*Heb. 5:5, 6, 9*

\*CLOSING HYMN #767

*Together We Serve*

\*GOD'S BLESSING AS WE GO

\*POSTLUDE

† † †

*Questions for Reflection*

God is at work offering forgiveness, showing mercy, and giving knowledge of life, death, and salvation. Where is God enacting that new life within or around you? What in your life must die so that you may flourish? What must fall away so that you can rise again in Christ?

*Household Prayer: Morning*

Loving God, you offer the gift of new life each day.  
Open my heart to receive this grace that I may be wholly yours,  
then give me the courage to share this gift wherever I go  
as I seek to walk in your way of mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life. Amen.

*Household Prayer: Evening*

Forgiving God, who makes all things new,  
you know where I have flourished this day,  
and you know where I have failed.  
Help me to know that in all my challenges there is a seed of hope  
that enables me to more faithfully depend on you.  
May I rest in peace this night and awake refreshed  
to greet the newness of your day. Amen.

## ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

*Lay Liturgist – Yvonne Friel; Greeters – Mary Seieroe, Barb Reckell, Nancy Evans & Pat Ganson, Ushers; Greeters – Ruth Clark, Dave & Vella Caruso; After Worship Hospitality – Bob & Cheryl Hartman; Offering Counters – Dave & Vella Caruso*

## 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.

**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 Aitan Rustomova.

**All Hands on Deck!** The FPC Youth will be volunteering at Kids Food Basket on April 14<sup>th</sup> and need extra hands to assist. Details and sign-up sheet are on the *"Upcoming Events"* bulletin board.

**This year's annual Lenten Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.**

**Lakey, Nelson and Camp Scholarships are available and posted on the bulletin by the nursery.** Lakey and Nelson Scholarships deadline is March 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 at <https://vbspro.events/p/fpcmuskegon-vbs>.

**Sign up to attend the May 5<sup>th</sup> performance of Monty Python's SPAMALOT,** performed by the Muskegon Civic Theatre at the Frauenthal Center. Attend dinner with your FPC family and friends prior to the show at the Harbor Holiday Inn. Ticket and payment information is posted on the "Upcoming Events" bulletin board.

**The April BFW Bread Sale will be postponed for one week.** Giving in to the Easter Bunny and the spring break vacationers on Easter Sunday, our monthly Bread For the World Bread Sale will take place on the following Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. The Cents-Ability Offering will be held as usual on the first Sunday of the month.

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK

For more than fifty years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in supporting **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Our gifts support the Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Offering envelopes are available in your weekly offering boxes or the pew racks. Thank you for your generosity.

**FPC Easter Egg Hunt:** Join us with your favorite kids on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 3 pm! We will have some yard games, an art area and egg hunts for children 0 - 10 years of age. **Volunteers are needed for the Easter Egg Hunt-** come be a welcoming face from our church family!

The Property Council is seeking help with **spring clean-up of the church grounds** on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 9–noon (weather permitting). Please bring your own yard tools. The alternate date is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Sunday, March 18

8:30 am	Joyful Ringers
9:15 am	Choir Warm-up
10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Hospitality
11:00 am	YAC Time
11:15 am	Deacons Meeting
11:30 am	Lenten Reflections

### Monday, March 19

9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
6:30 pm	Theology Matters

### Tuesday, March 20

9:30 am	Mom's Workout Group
6:00 pm	Choir Practice
7:15 pm	Gentle Yoga

### Wednesday, March 21

1:00 pm	Postpartum Group
6:30 pm	Session Meeting

### Friday, March 23

9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
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### Saturday, March 24

9:00 am	Grounds Clean-up
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### Sunday, March 25

8:30 am	Joyful Ringers
9:15 am	Choir Warm-up
10:00 am	Worship
11:15 am	Pancake Brunch
1:00 pm	Easter Egg Hunt

All are invited to the  
FPC Youth-Sponsored

Palm Sunday Brunch  
March 25<sup>th</sup>  
11:15 a.m.



## *Lenten Services*

PALM SUNDAY

March 25<sup>th</sup>

Worship – 10:00 a.m.

Pancake Brunch – 11:15 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 29<sup>th</sup>

Worship – 7:00 p.m.

in the Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY

March 30<sup>th</sup> – Noon

Combined Worship Service  
at McGrift Congregational

EASTER SUNDAY

April 1<sup>st</sup>

Worship – 10:00 a.m.