

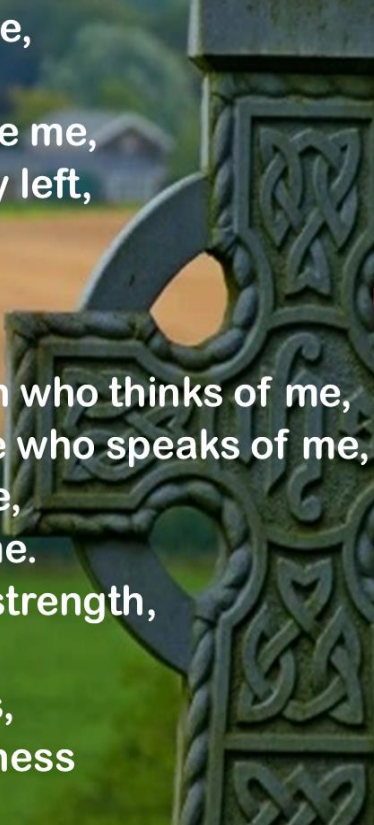
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA>

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation 



Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
I arise today through a mighty strength,
the invocation of the Trinity,
through belief in the Threeness,
through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.

from the Breastplate of St. Patrick

Sermon based upon John 12:20-36 and Psalm 119:9-16

Our Mission

"Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other."

*The Service for the Lord's Day
Fifth Sunday in Lent*

PRELUDE

Berceuse

Louis Vierne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Billy Kirby, Administration Chair

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: With all my heart I seek You;

People: Let me not wander from your teachings!

Leader: Your love is imprinted upon my heart,

People: That I may walk in your Light.

Leader: Blessed are You, O Counselor; guide me in all that I do,

People: That with my lips I may bear witness to the truth of your Way.

Leader: With your Word in my heart, I delight more than with the world's riches.

People: I listen in the Silence, awaiting the clarity of your counsel.

*OPENING HYMN

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

GTG#267

Christian H. Bateman (1843), Tune: MADRID; Public Domain

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;

Praise is His gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend; to us He'll condescend;

His love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,

Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

God of mercy,

You sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE

"Kyrie"

PH#572

***Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

People: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

We Are Forgiven

GTG#447

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Liturgist

Psalm 119:9-16

(OT pg.566)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor

ANTHEM

The Lenten Path
Chancel Choir

Ruth Elaine Schram

Second Reading:

Pastor

John 12:20-36

(NT pg.106)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. 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.

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer: Come and listen to me.*

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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

***The Doxology**

GTG#607PH#592

**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. ~Amen~**

Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist

SENDING HYMNSavior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

GTG#187

Public Domain

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Mark Hayes

*Please stand as you are able

Welcome to our visitors today!

We are glad you are here and we hope you will join us for worship again. If you are interested in joining our church, there are three ways you may do so. They are letter of transfer from your church of previous membership, reaffirmation of faith if you have already been baptized; and baptism and affirmation of faith if you have not been baptized. If you are interested in joining, please ask our pastor, or one of our elders, for more details.

Need help hearing the service? Receivers connected to the sound system are available in the Narthex. Just ask an usher.

Please use the friendship register located in the pew to indicate your presence in worship. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please include your address, telephone number, and e-mail.

Let the children come to me: Children & Youth of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to actively participate in worship. For those desiring supportive materials, "sermon notes" for young children through older youth are available in the narthex. Clipboards and crayons are also available to take to your pew. Please return them to the narthex after the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Think Tank will meet Monday, March 18th at 2:00 PM in the session room. While there are many unknowns, we helpfully will know more by the 18th.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are shared with the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Look for envelopes in the pew racks *now through Easter Sunday*.

Our final service of the Lenten lunches will be held at noon on **Thursday, March 21st** at Starling Avenue Baptist Church. Angela Zimmerman will do the devotional.

ATTENTION! Southwestern Va Gas Company will be installing a new main line in front of the church beginning **Friday, March 29**. They plan to complete the work while the schools are on spring break the following week.

The Community Breakfast is Saturday, March 23rd with team leaders Neil and Kym Tatum. Cooking begins at 7:00 AM and breakfast is served from 8:00 - 9:30 AM. Please contact Neil (276-734-2680) or Kym (276-790-9594) if you are available to cook, serve, or clean.



Palm Sunday in the Park Service is Sunday, March 24th at 9:00 AM at J. Frank Wilson Park. Park at the Lutheran Church, across the street from the park, to either walk to, or catch the bus that will deliver those unable to walk to the park. There will be seating for 50. We will provide palm fronds for our members and guests. Following this service, our members will join together in the Fellowship Hall for a light breakfast. Please bring your breakfast items to the kitchen. (muffins, ham biscuits, cinnamon rolls, etc.) Coffee and juice will be provided. *If it rains, the park service will move indoors to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.*

Also, on Palm Sunday, Rev. Carl Utley and Rev. Jen Brothers will gather with us in the Fellowship Hall for a **Reunification** presentation and discussion as we finish enjoying breakfast.



Our Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service of Darkness will take place on Friday, March 29th at 6:00 PM. Elders and members of the Sunday School class will assist in the service of stripping the church. Communion will be served by Intinction. **NOTE: Practice for the Tenebrae service is at 2:00 PM on Thursday, March 28th.**

On Saturday, April 13th, you are joyously invited to share in a wonderful learning experience as we gather in Farmville VA to visit former Robert Russa Moton High School, now a National Historic Landmark and museum, and the birthplace of America's student-led civil rights revolution. There is no cost to you for lunch or admittance into the museum. For more information and registration, follow this link <https://www.peakspresbytery.org/event/moton-museum-trip/>

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network** (Spaghetti Sauce 24 oz. jar) (Other needs: toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, toothpaste, feminine products, dish and laundry detergent) when you do your grocery shopping. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday 9:30 – 2:00 PM

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of George Townsend, Sue Benfield, Jerry Bishop, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Marilyn & Ernest Bremner, Cathie Carter (B. Tatum), Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Beau Coughlen (great-grandson of M & N Davis), April Cox (B. Tatum), Steve Edgerton, Marge Dunn, Neill Ferrill (S. Ford), Gary Francisco (Shanna King's Father), Juanita Griffin (J & B Williams), Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Betty Carol and Harold Lamm, Mary Manning, Maggie Pilson, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Barbara Tatum, Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday March 17	Fifth Sunday in Lent
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
Monday – Friday Weekday School	
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	School in Session
12:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Lunch Buddies in FH
Monday, March 18	
2:00 PM	Think Tank Meeting in Session Room
Thursday, March 21	
12 NOON	Lenten Lunch @ Starling Ave. Baptist
Saturday, March 23	
8:00-9:30 AM	Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)
Sunday March 24	Palm Sunday/2 Cents a Meal Offering
9:00 AM	Palm Sunday in the Park (J. Frank Wilson Park)
10:00 AM	Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall & Reunification Meeting
Monday, March 25	
6:00 PM	Session Meeting
Thursday, March 28	
2:00 PM	Practice for Tenebrae Service
Friday, March 29	
6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service
Sunday March 31	Easter Day/Resurrection of the Lord
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
Monday, April 1	Easter Monday
	Office will be closed

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
March 17	Jack Kirby	Monty and Joan Montgomery
March 24 (Palm Sunday)	Not needed	Not needed
March 31 (Easter)	Sam Smith	Billy and Sharon Kirby
April 7	Pearl Minter	Neil Tatum, Betty Hudson
April 14	Mary Linker	Monty and Joan Montgomery
April 21	Ione Linker	Milt and Nancy Davis
April 28	Joan Montgomery	Billy and Sharon Kirby

If you cannot serve on the Sunday scheduled, please find a substitute.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.