

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WASHINGTONVILLE

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Welcome to worship!

We praise God for everyone who joins us in worshipping this weekend.
It is a blessing to worship God as part of a community of faith.

ōSo we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making His appeal through us;
we entreat You on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.ö
2 Corinthians 5:20

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

ōWere You Thereö
Nancy Popoloski, soloist

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Bill Wolaver

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Psalm 32:1-2, 6, 11

Leader: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

People: **Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

Leader: Therefore let all the faithful pray to You while You may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.

People: **Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Holy God, we praise You. Your patience is beyond our understanding. We love You for the grace that doesn't decide whether we're hopeless until the last minute. We marvel at the grace that extends the same patience to our neighbors! We adore You for caring about us at all, when we are so tiny and You so mighty. Help us to see beyond our little selves and worship You as the Creator of all things. Praise be to You, O God. Amen.

*HYMN #66

ōTo God Be the Gloryö

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty and Eternal God, forgive us our indifference to the good news of Your love. We close our eyes to the hurts of the world, and yet we are eager to apply Your promises to our own lives when we are hurting. Each day we have opportunities to show Your great love to others, and yet we make excuses and allow our emotions to distract us from doing Your will. Forgive us our nearsightedness, our apathy and our lack of courage. Make us bold to be Your people, baptized into service as Jesus was, proclaiming and showing Your love to the entire world. Amen.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE AND FORGIVENESS (responsive)

Psalm 32:5 para.

Leader: I acknowledged my sin, and did not hide my iniquity,

People: **I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”;
and God forgave the guilt of my sin.**

*GLORIA PATRI

Avery & Marsh

**Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

WE HEAR THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

Pew Bible p. 171

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Pew Bible p. 940

ANTHEM

ōI Come to the Crossö

Bill Batstone & Bob Somma

CHILDREN'S TIME

Prayer requests will be collected following The Children's Time

*GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Pew Bible p. 859

MEDITATION

Rev. Martha Carlson

WE RESPOND TO GOD

*HYMN #348

ōSoftly and Tenderlyö

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

[C67-9.07]

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself. We confess that Jesus Christ is God with us, the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. We believe that the risen Christ is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all we say about God, ourselves, and the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK ARE: immigrants and their families, all the people suffering in the Middle East, the people of Ukraine, Amanda, Anne, Charlie M., Cher E., the family and friends of Dawn H., Debra V.'s mother, Donnie S., Edd C., FPCW, Ingrid, Jim P., Claire & Jack, Joan B., Kathy D., Kevin B., Lauren, Mary N., Martha B., Mike N., Nancy B., Peggy W., Rebecca H., Sabine P., Scott S., Sue H., Susan V., Wendy & Larry H., Zach B. the family of Zachary C., and the men and women in our Armed Forces, especially Marine Riley Bray-Jones, Ashley Sabo-National Guard, Ben Clark-U.S. Navy, SSG Michael Grounds, LC Michael Haub, Airman Frank Terry-Air Force. Also in our prayers this week are: First Church Liberty.

THE OFFERING

It is important that we offer ourselves to God, with or without the physical symbols of offering, because it is in the using of our gifts that we serve God.

Financial offerings may be mailed to the church. The church's mailing address is 30 Goshen Avenue, Washingtonville NY 10992.

*THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER FOR DEDICATION (unison)

Thank You, God, for the excellent gift of Your Son. Help us to imitate Him by giving You our best. Amen.

WE TAKE GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING HYMN #357

oWhat Wondrous Love Is Thiso

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Please be seated for the postlude.

POSTLUDE

oTo Him Who Sits on the Throneo

Debye Graafsma, arr. Ken Barker

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

What happened after the Israelites ate their first crops in the Promised Land? Why?

How do we become a new creation?

What do we do with God's reconciliation? Why is it important to do this?

Who is Jesus's audience when He tells this famous parable?

We call the parable The Prodigal Son, or The Lost Son. What other names would be a good description?

Why doesn't the father stop the sons when they make their first mistakes?

What kinds of boundaries does the father in the parable have?

What do you think happens to each son after the party?

If the children of the Father want to have more parties, how do you think we can get them?

Join the people who are reading the Bible-in-a-year readings. This week's Bible readings are: Sunday: 1 Samuel 4-7; Monday: 1 Samuel 8-10; Tuesday: 1 Samuel 11-13; Wednesday: 1 Samuel 14-16; Thursday: 1 Samuel 17-20; Friday: 1 Samuel 21-24; Saturday: 1 Samuel 25-28

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Choices to communicate PRAYER NEEDS:

1. Send your prayer requests to Lois via email: lmbd9999@gmail.com. There are currently 42 persons in our e-Prayer Circle who are notified of prayer requests. Cynthia will add names from e-prayer requests to the weekly prayer list.

2. During Sunday worship services, fill out a prayer request card or verbalize your request at prayer time. The cards will be collected immediately following The Children's Time.

God does hear and answer our prayers! Thank you, God!

Prayer requests from worship services and from e-Prayer Circle will be put on our weekly prayer list and remain on the list for 30 days, unless requested otherwise.

Office hours: Tuesday 3:00-5:00.

Call the manse phone any time at 845-614-0048, or email Martha at revmpc86@yahoo.com or text Martha at 845-260-2273.

The church office (845-496-3814)

will be open only as needed until further notice.

Messages left on the answering machine and emails sent to fpcwashingtonville@gmail.com will be checked regularly.

The church's mailing address is 30 Goshen Avenue, Washingtonville NY 10992.

The church's website is fpcw.makeswebsites.com

The church Facebook page is First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville.

Questions, comments, discussion group on Facebook is

Washingtonville First Presbyterian Church.