



First Presbyterian Church

Tullahoma, Tennessee

Fifth Sunday in Lent April 6, 2025

Vision Statement:

Worshipping God, growing together, serving others, and welcoming all

Service for the Worship of God – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

If you are visiting with us and would like to leave your contact information, please fill out the “Welcome” card (located in the pew rack) and drop it in the offering plate.

Lenten symbol: A sheaf of wheat reminds us of Paul’s assurance in 1 Corinthians that our current bodies are like a bare seed, which upon being planted in the ground sprouts a plant of wheat. “What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or some other grain.” (1 Corinthians 15:36-37)

Prelude

Still your heart and prepare to worship God.

Water is poured into the baptismal font calling us to remember our baptism.

The acolytes symbolically bring the light of Christ into the service.

Call to Worship (responsively)

Led by Liturgist

We will give thanks to you, O GOD,

with our whole heart; we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

We will be glad and exult in you;

we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Litany for Lent – *The Way, the Truth, and the Life* (see insert)

Clay Bearden

*This week we are extinguishing the light of **five** candles,*

progressing from light to darkness throughout the season of Lent.

**Hymn No. 625

O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)

**Call to Confession

Liturgist

**Prayer of Confession (unison)

Led by Liturgist

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we are your covenant people—one church, drawn from all nations. Our citizenship is in your kingdom. Yet we confess that we sometimes lose sight of your kingdom’s values. We confess that we sometimes live more as citizens of our own land than as citizens of your kingdom. Forgive us for losing our distinctiveness. Focus us on the cross and on the salvation you give through him who is the Lord and King and Judge of us all, Jesus, the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

****Choral Response, No. 551** *Lord, Have Mercy*
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

****Assurance of Pardon** Liturgist

****Choral Response, No. 701 (2 times)** *Lord, Prepare Me*
Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Time with Young Christians

Special Music

Prayer of Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:16-21

Found on page 672 in the Old Testament of the pew Bible
Holy Word, Holy Wisdom
Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14

Found on page 198 in the New Testament of the pew Bible
Holy Word, Holy Wisdom
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Closing the Gap"

****Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed (in unison)**

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.

****Hymn No. 501** *Feed Us, Lord*

Prayers of the People (Minister) and The Lord's Prayer (unison): 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.

Presentation of Ourselves and of our Gifts

Call to Offering

Liturgist

Contributions can be made online at www.fpctullahoma.org

Offertory

**Doxology, No. 607

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

**Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Words of Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Holy One, in this dry and weary land
we give you thanks and praise.

You provide for us in our need;

you set a table for us in the wilderness.

Even when we despair and complain against you,
you feed us with bread from heaven.

Even when we quarrel and question your grace,
you give us water from a stone.

How can we keep silent?

Even dry bones in the valley of death
stand to sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give you thanks and praise for Jesus,

our way in the wilderness,

our companion in the desert.

He knows our hunger and thirst;

he gives us the bread of life to eat
and living water to drink.

**He leads us beside still water
and prepares this table for us,
even in the presence of our enemies.**

The cup of blessing overflows!

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
This is my body, given for you.

On that same night he took the cup, saying,
This is the new covenant, sealed in my blood.
Do this in remembrance of me.

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Now pour out your Holy Spirit
upon this bread, this cup,
this dry and weary land.
By the power of your Spirit,
breathe life into our dust
and hope into our bones.

As we receive this bread and cup,
make us one flesh and one blood,
one in the body of Christ.
Let us live to sing your praise
and show your love to all,
until our wilderness wandering is over,
and we feast with you forever
in the land that you have promised.

**Through Jesus Christ our lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, O God,
now and always. Amen.**

Serving the Elements

Prayer after Communion

****Hymn 450**

****Charge and Benediction**

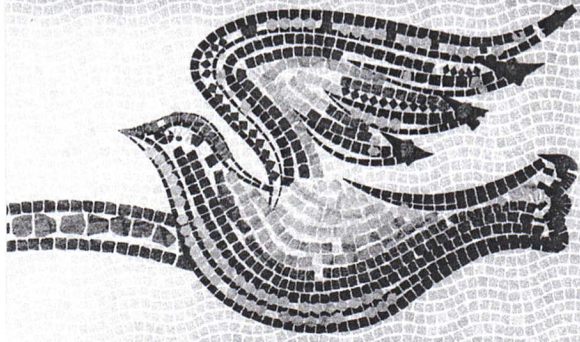
****Postlude**

Be Thou My Vision

*****All who are able are invited to stand.***

Ministers – Our entire congregation
Stephen G. Yates, Pastor
David Hiebert, Organist
Katie Prasser, Minister to Children
Bethany Sterling, Minister to Youth
Robert Wright, Choir Director
Mary Grigsby, Liturgist

The WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE



THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

THE TRUTH OF GOD

Melody.....Dundee CM

Sing or speak in unison:

You are the truth; your Word alone
True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.

- ℒ *Jesus came to tell the truth of God to the people of God.*
- ☩ So we listen to the Lord.
- ℒ *Jesus said, "Very truly, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you."*
- ☩ So we confidently come to God in prayer.

You are the truth; the truth you give
Comes only from our God.
For only by God's will we live
To tell your news abroad.

- ℒ *Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also."*
- ☩ We eagerly await the true life that we will have in heaven.
- ℒ *Jesus said, "The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me."*
- ☩ We feed on the words of truth from our God coming from our Savior's mouth.
- ℒ *Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*
- ☩ Jesus is the true food and the true drink that nourishes our souls for all eternity.

You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win,
Whose joys eternal flow.

THE TRUTH OF GOD

Daily readings for the week

Sun	John 6:53-54
Mon	Colossians 1:19-20
Tues.....	Philippians 1:27-30
Wed.....	Colossians 2:1-3
Thurs.....	Psalm 116:12-19
Fri.....	John 19:34-35
Sat.....	Revelation 21:5-7

Announcements for April 6, 2025

Sunday, April 6

9:00 Sunday school for adults and children (3-years-old – 5th grade)

10:30 Worship service

11:30 Session meeting in Fellowship Hall

Monday, April 7

8:30 Learning Place Preschool

12:00 p.m. Phoenix Apartments Board meeting in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 8

8:30 Learning Place Preschool

1:00 p.m. Chair yoga in Williams Family Center

Wednesday, April 9

8:30 Learning Place Preschool

10:00 Presbyterian Women meeting in Fellowship Hall

5:00 p.m. Kingdom Kids for children Pre-K – 5th grade

5:00 p.m. Presbyterian Youth Connection for middle school students

6:30 p.m. Presbyterian Youth Connection for high school students

Thursday, April 10

8:30 Learning Place Preschool, including chapel

1:00 p.m. Chair yoga in Williams Family Center

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Thursday Girls meeting in Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m. Property Committee meeting in the parlor

7:00 p.m. Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society meeting in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, April 12

10:00 Kingdom Kids **Easter Celebration** here at the church (See pink insert)

Next Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday and Mission Sunday

8:00 Men's Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

9:00 Gather in the back parking lot for the Palm Walk to Caboose Park for a brief service about the events of Palm Sunday. Upon returning to the church, we will gather in Williams Family Center for **Fellowship Time** (hosted by the Worship Committee) and to assemble for a **palm procession** into the sanctuary for the Palm Sunday Worship Service.

10:30 Worship service

Good Sam Food requests for April – Bring your food offering to the worship service with you next Sunday, April 13.

Special food requests this month: cereal, crackers

Hygiene requests: Kleenex and dish soap

Regular requests: canned fruits, canned vegetables, dry spaghetti, pasta sauce, soup, soda crackers, cereal, peanut butter, canned tuna, and canned chicken.

Volunteers needed to help with gasoline and utility assistance on Mondays and Tuesdays each month until the benevolence funds for the month (currently \$400) are exhausted. You are asked to be in the church office from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. to go to Mapco around the corner from the church to purchase gas for clients (using church credit card) and to phone a utility company to pay on a client's account (also using church credit card).

The church offers this help on Mondays and Tuesdays of each week during the month until the funds for the month are expended. During most months the funds are used up during the first two weeks of the month. You can sign up to help one day at the time; it is not a commitment for a whole month.

The time you are in the office is an opportunity for you to read, to work on your own projects, and/or to use your phone for entertainment. Bethany kindly allows the volunteers to use her office during these hours since she is in the preschool office during that time.

If you can help with this mission project, want more information, and/or to volunteer, speak with Brad Sturgill, Stephen, or Martha.



We will celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 20. The Worship Committee invites you to participate in this joyous celebration by furnishing a lily to decorate the church.

The lilies can be designated in honor of a special person or as a memorial. An insert in the Easter bulletin will list the honorees and memorials along with the name of the person contributing the gift. Cost of the lilies will be \$18 each. If you would like to place an order, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate. Make your check to First Presbyterian Church and designate it "lily."

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 6, 2025

Easter Lilies – 2025

I want to order an Easter lily or lilies. List number _____

Your name (as you want it in the church bulletin)

Name of person(s) being honored or memorialized

Circle one:

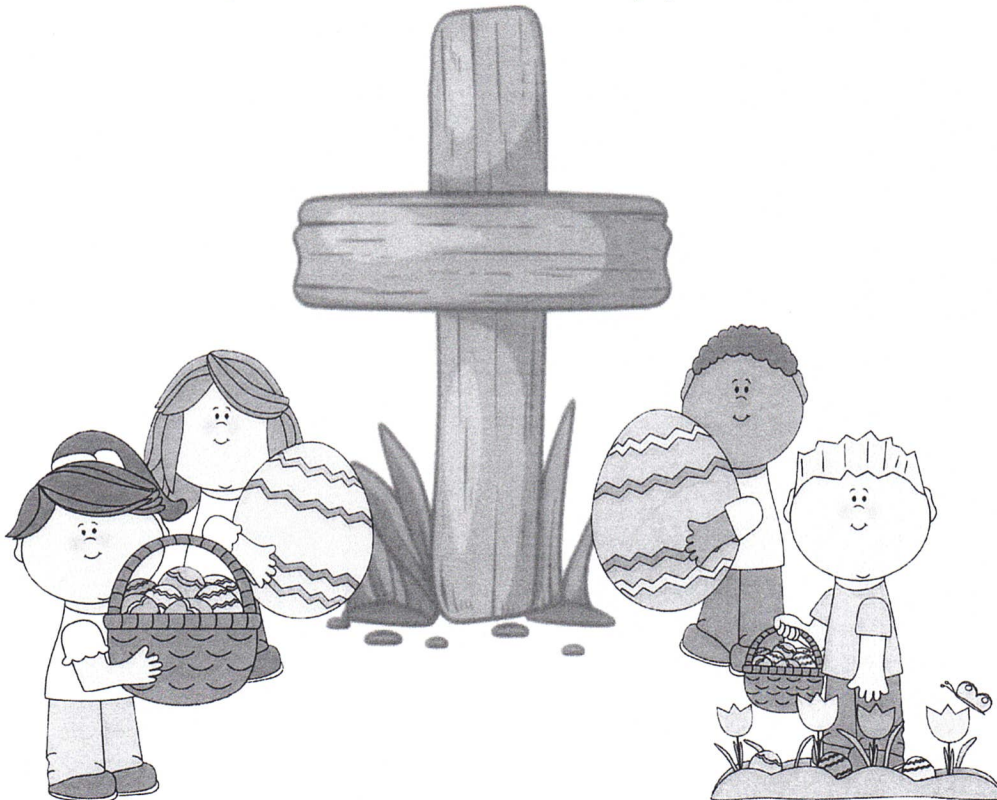
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| 1. _____ | Honor | Memorial |
| 2. _____ | Honor | Memorial |
| 3. _____ | Honor | Memorial |
| 4. _____ | Honor | Memorial |

Easter Celebration

Children in fifth grade and under are invited to join us for games, snacks, fellowship, and an Egg Hunt

April 12, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at First Presbyterian Church

Candy donations can be brought in through Sunday, April 6, 2025, and given to Katie Prasser or left in the kids' gathering room. Any donations are appreciated.



**Vacation Bible School
Welcome to the Marketplace**

Join us as we travel to the first-century marketplace and get first-hand experience hearing Jesus' stories and miracles.

Children will learn stories about Jesus that are placed in the marketplace. They will hear about the miracles, the testimonies, the friends and enemies he had. Each child will receive a biblical time costume and have the opportunity to visit different marketplace stalls such as pottery, weaving, dying cloth, making jewelry, and woodwork. Each marketplace stall will be run by a volunteer (also in biblical attire) and will have an activity that ties into the biblical lesson.

**JUNE 4, 2025 - JUNE 6, 2025
5:30 P.M- 7:30 P.M**

If you are interested in assisting with VBS this year, please see Katie Prasser.

Some of the areas we will need assistance in are

- **Set up/tear down**
- **Running a marketplace stall (this would mean you help with the activity they are working on in your stall)**
 - **Storyteller**
 - **Class Leader**
 - **assistant**

We also need donations of old sheets or fabric, and large sticks that are 5 to 7 feet long and 2 to 3 inches thick (roundabout, they will be poles for our marketplace tents). Ms. Katie can pick them up from your home or you can drop them at her house.

