

GATHERING

Loving God, in all I do this day, use me as a sign of your reconciling love. Let me not view anyone from a human point of view, but let me see all whom I will encounter with the eyes of Christ, through whom I pray. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Pie Jesu

G. Faure

Heather Harrell, voice; Jakob Hamilton, organ

Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis requiem, sempiternam requiem.

Blessed Jesus, Lord, give them eternal rest.

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Like the prodigal, we have requested our share of the kingdom before its time.

There are consequences to our decisions.

But our Heavenly Father never quits watching for us,

and he offers us his grace, instead of what we deserve.

* **HYMN 442**

Just as I Am, without One Plea

WOODWORTH

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

KYRIE (HYMN 551)

Lord, Have Mercy

LAND OF REST

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

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32 (NRSV)

OT pg. 503

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Amazing Grace

J. Bertalot

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun. Praise God, amazing grace!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

(Afterward, children in kindergarten through 2nd grade will be dismissed to Kids-4-God.)

* **HYMN 418** Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:11-32 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 692

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Prodigal and The Faithful One

Rev. Mark Hults

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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; on 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lamb of God

G. Bizet

Heather Harrell, voice; Jakob Hamilton, organ

Lamb of God, thou that takest away the world's guilt, O, have compassion upon us. Lamb of God, thou takest away the sin of the world, have compassion upon us. Lamb of God, thou that takest away the world's sin, Lamb of God, thou that takest away the sins of the world, now be with us. Lamb of God, may thy peace be with us.

* **DOXOLOGY**

Hymn 606

*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.*

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:30 A.M.)

(Gluten-Free Bread)

SENDING

* **HYMN 488** I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry WATERLIFE

* **BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE** I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry D. Christiansen

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Scott Stuart

ELDER ON DUTY: Geoff Spiegel

ACOLYTE: Max Conerly

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

CHANCEL CHOIR

CHAPEL USHER: **Howard & Margaret Lingg**; SANCTUARY USHERS: Roger Bachmann, Paul Bennett, Matthew Morse, Carol Turner

A/V TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Kim de Fretes, Jack Harling, **Dink Henderson**, John Rayl

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Eleanor Samuels' 92nd birthday by her children, grandchildren, and great grandsons.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. You can find a "Three Steps to Membership" card with information about how to join the church in the pew racks. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast and Leon & Jayne Fox. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala.

Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

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Business Manager

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Laura Montgomery - assistant@1stpc.org

Communications Specialist

Jenny Chamberlain - communications@1stpc.org

Event Sexton and Music Clerk

Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org

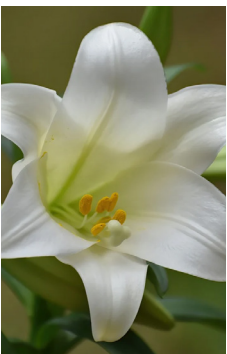
Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill

Sexton - Margaret Hill

Property Coordinator

John Rayl - png.1stpc@gmail.com

EASTER LILIES



On Easter morning our sanctuary will be decorated with lilies. Flowers are available to purchase in honor or in memory of a family member or loved one. The lilies are \$15 each and can be ordered by filling out the form below to place in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by Sunday, April 6. The flowers will be available to take home after the 11 a.m. Easter worship service.

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given By: _____

FORGIVENESS

442 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - yā
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,
 4 Just as I am, thy love un-known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me
 con - flict, man - yā doubt, fight - ings and fears with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise
 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

come to thee,
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!
 I be - lieve,
 thine a - lone,

When illness limited her involvement in a bustling household, the author wrote this hymn that helped her both to achieve and to express a renewed sense of worth grounded in Christ's self-giving. Its simple, direct, and deeply felt language has made it a source of comfort to many.

TEXT: Charlotte Elliott, 1834, alt.; Spanish trans. Tomás M. Westrup, alt; Korean trans. anon.
 MUSIC: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1849; harm. *The Hymnbook*, 1955
 Korean Trans. © *The Hymnal Society of Korea*
 Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

WOODWORTH
 LM

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 32 (NRSV)

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah ⁶Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah ⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. ¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. ¹¹Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:11-3 (NRSV)

¹¹Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION

418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

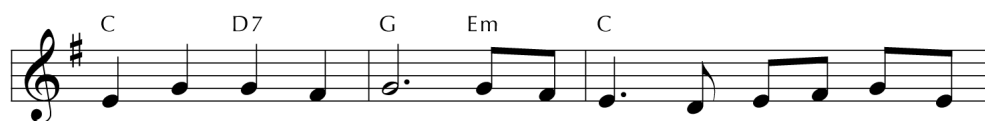
488 I Was There to Hear Your Born-ing Cry



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry; I'll be there when
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word, I was there to
 3 "In the mid-dle a-ges of your life, not too old, no



you are old. I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv-ing Lord to
 lon-ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-



see your life un-fold. I was there when you were but a
 whom you now be-long. If you find some-one to share your
 plete what I've be-gun. When the eve-ning gent-ly clos-es



child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to
 in and you shut your wea-ry eyes, I'll be there as



light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 make your vers-es rhyme from dusk till ris-ing sun."
 I have al-ways been with just one more sur-prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.



I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un-fold."

Originally created to accompany a video series on baptism, this hymn speaks in the imagined conversational voice of God, assuring the person being baptized of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life. It offers a reminder that baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event.



Palms & Psalms

Gather for intergenerational fellowship and a continental breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 13, at 9:30 a.m. in Gordon Hall. Make a palm cross and pray through the psalms. Come after 8:30 worship in the chapel or stay afterwards for worship at 11 in the sanctuary as we begin Holy Week together. RSVP to Evelyn Lewis at citytr122@gmail.com.



Love in Action

The fourth *Love in Action* concert will be held during 11 a.m. worship next Sunday, April 6. **(There will not be an 8:30 worship service)**. In preparation, the Local Missions Committee is asking you to join our Love in Action Challenge: participate in at least one activity to share God's love with those in need in our community. How will you step up to the challenge?



40 Days of Caring

During this Lenten season, as we focus on what Christ has done for us in His death and resurrection, let us also share with others who are in need. We are collecting food for Gainesville Community Ministries and soft-sided Bibles (used or new, but no writing inside) to distribute at the Alachua County Jail. We have a blue bin in Gordon Hall for your donations. You may also provide donations or gift cards (Walmart, Target, or gas cards) for families at Family Promise and St. Francis House. Please label and place in the offering or bring to the church office. Thank you!



Family Promise Hosting

Also, during the week of March 30–April 5 our congregation is providing meals to four families that Family Promise is sheltering while they transition to more permanent affordable housing. This is a great opportunity for a family or group to share God's love in a practical way. Sign up with Jane Smith in Gordon Hall after the 11 a.m. worship service today or use the link below or in the weekly invite:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094AA4A629A4FA7-55590871-family>



Immediate Help Needed in the Nursery

We have a small team of volunteers who serve regularly in our nursery on Sunday mornings. If one of the team is unable to be there, it is challenging to staff the nursery.

Pick-up a calendar page from the ushers for all this week's ministry events or print one from the weekly invite email. Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.

Weekly Figures

In-Person Attendance 3/23	131
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$38,129
Received Week of 3/23/25	\$11,531
Weekly Offering	\$1,568
Designated Offerings	\$3,384
Other Revenue	\$45
Preschool	\$6,533
FPC Fiscal Year: July 2024-June 2025	
YTD Budget Requirements	\$1,410,767
YTD Received	\$1,268,531
YTD Expenses	\$1,252,216

Online Contributions



Visit our website, www.1stpc.org, to make an online donation. Click the GIVE button at the top of the page. You can contribute to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba.



T-Coil installed in the sanctuary, and Hearing Assist devices available in the Narthex.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.** for our televised broadcast  or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

Current Worship video and audio as well as archives at 1stpc.org

CCLI License #2742913 & CCLI Streaming #CSPL091568

Ministries

At **First Presbyterian Preschool**, children are fully prepared for school in a caring, Christian environment. Classes are offered 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Early Childhood Accredited.

Our **Children and Youth Ministries** provide a multi-generational approach of Christian example as the church family comes alongside parents to lead children to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

Nursery Care during worship for children 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten. Contact: Jenna Mueller - jdmueller2009@gmail.com

Kindergarten through 2nd grade children are released from worship for **Kids-4-God** to spend time growing their faith. After the service, families meet in Gordon Hall. Contact: Evelyn Lewis - citytr122@gmail.com

LOGOS is a mid-week ministry with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and family dinner for students age 3 through high school. Contact Bev Vloedman to RSVP for 6 p.m. dinner at dvoloedman@aol.com.

Youth Connection meets for fellowship and food with Bible study and mentoring for students in grades 6-12.

Our **College Ministry** seeks to launch students into a life of pursuing Christ, trusting in Him, and growing with others. Join us for Sunday worship & lunch and Tuesday Bible study. Bring a friend!

Young Adult & Family Ministry (YA&FM) is for marrieds and singles, with or without kids, in grad school or in vocation. We gather for Bible Studies and to get to know each other better and would love the chance to do life with you.

With choirs for ages three and above, our **Music Ministry** welcomes everyone to sing or ring and to dedicate their music to God. Our concert season includes Concerts for a Cause, which support local and global mission partners.

Staff

Senior Pastor

REV. MARK HULTS - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

MITCH RORICK - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

FRED LUNDY - youngadult@1stpc.org

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

REV. SCOTT STUART - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

LISA HERSHKOWITZ - preschool@1stpc.org

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ANDREW NETARDUS - events@1stpc.org

Property Coordinator

JOHN RAYL - png.1stpc@gmail.com

Head Sexton

TONY COGDILL

Sexton

MARGARET HILL

Glorify God
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
Meet Human Needs



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 30, 2025

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: 2 & 3 John - Serendipity Rinonos - Lib.
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School - Lent - Room 201
- 10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Rm 217
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall
- 12:00 p.m. College Cafe - Serving Room

Monday, March 31, 2025

- 5:30 p.m. Local Missions serves dinner at St. Francis House

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

- 2:15 p.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. College Trajectory Bible Study - Gordon Hall

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Bible Study - *Who Is Jesus? Questions? Contact Betsy Berry - betsypwberry@gmail.com*
- 3:45 p.m. LOGOS
- 5:45 p.m. LOGOS Family Time - Movie Night
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers

Thursday, April 3, 2025

- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers -Room 215
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Friday, April 4, 2025

Saturday, April 5, 2025

Sunday, April 6, 2025

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: 2 & 3 John - Serendipity Rinonos - Lib.
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School - Lent - Room 201
- 10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Rm 217
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall
- 12:00 p.m. College Cafe - Serving Room

Third Sunday in Lent Family Promise Hosting Begins

Visit www.1stpc.org/lent for information on our special services and ministry activities during the Lent and Easter Season at First Presbyterian Church.