

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 22, 2026
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH — Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE — *Song of the Larks* (Isaac Mingus, cello) — Johannes Brahms

From Psalm 130

CALL TO WORSHIP — Frank Frey

O people, hope in the Lord.
With the Lord there is steadfast love
and great power to redeem.

***HYMN 450** — *Be Thou My Vision* — SLANE

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God,
you call us to treat others
as we wish to be treated.
Yet we rarely do.
We confess that we can be
impatient and unkind,
judgmental and arrogant.
Forgive us.
Turn our hearts outward.
Teach us your mercy that moves,
your love that acts,
and your grace that gives without counting the cost.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 647** *Give Thanks*

Give thanks with a grateful heart;
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

And now let the weak say,
"We are strong";
let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP - FOUNDATION FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Betsy Marshall

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Servant Song* David Schwoebel
(The Chancel Choir)

If anyone would be first they shall be the last of all;
they shall be the last, be the servant of all.

We are travelers on a journey;
fellow pilgrims on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.
Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.

If anyone would be first they shall be the last of all;
they shall be the last, be the servant of all.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.
When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

If anyone would be first they shall be the last of all;
they shall be the last, be the servant of all.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 7:12-14, 24-29

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Topping Out* Rev. Boggess
Higher Ground: Sermon on the Mount

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Frank Frey

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 OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* *Paul Manz*
(Isaac Mingus, cello; Steven Phillips, organ)

***DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

From *A Declaration Of Faith*, 1977

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Frank Frey

We believe God sends us to risk our own
peace and comfort in compassion for our neighbors.
We are to give to them and receive from them,
accepting everyone we meet as a person;
to be sensitive to those who suffer in body or mind;
to help and accept help in ways that affirm dignity and responsibility.
We must not limit our compassion to those we judge deserving,
for we ourselves do not deserve the compassion of God.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 432** *How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord* REPTON

How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call
to live according to your word
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all
and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind
and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care:
our inward life repair.

We marvel how your saints became
in hindrances more sure:
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure
your power to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us, Lord, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you:
the cross you hung upon,
all you endeavored, done. .

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE *Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow* Vaughan Williams/ arr. Phillips

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

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