

March 9, 2025



**First Presbyterian
Church**
of Pittsburgh

WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45 am – 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

**Please stand as you are able*

Prelude: "Pavane"
Paul Drayton

Craig Dobbins, *organ*

Time of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Daniel B. Merry, *Interim Senior Pastor*

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Leader: God is our refuge and habitation,
present in times of trouble and responsive when we call.

**People: God has given us an inheritance
and led us from times and places of oppression.**

Leader: The Most High delivers those who love God
and protects those who know God's name.

**People: God's Word is on our lips and in our hearts
as we come together for worship and renewal.**

Leader: You shall worship the Sovereign One, your God,
and God only shall you serve.

**People: We know we do not live by bread alone,
so we open ourselves to the Spirit's leading,**

All: Let us together worship the Lord of Creation.

***Hymn: "Rejoice, You Righteous, in the Lord"** (located in this bulletin)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Merry

**God of our ancestors, we confess our attempts to play God
as we manage things for our advantage.**

We rely on our own wit and wisdom instead of seeking spiritual depth.

We imagine that our hunger can be satisfied by bread alone.

**Forgive us, God, from the chasms we create,
cutting us off from sisters and brothers and from You.**

Save us from ourselves, we pray.

Time of Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Children's Message

Rev. Merry

(Children ages preschool – 2nd grade are invited to attend Children in Worship on the 3rd floor balcony at this time. Children are to be picked up immediately after service in the chapel behind the high pulpit.)

***Hymn:** “As the Deer” *(located in this bulletin)*

Scripture Reading: Romans 4:13-25

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” ²³ The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “ADVENTURE...Great at Any Age!”

Rev. Merry

*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed

We 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 Spirit, 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 sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. We 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.*

Pastoral Prayer and 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Call for the Offering (*Online giving available, scan code on back*)

Rev. Merry

Anthem: "The Song of the Lamb"

Michael Card

Torey Gricks, *soloist*
Craig Dobbins, *piano*

*Victorious army with God-given hearts in their hands
A sea on fire, they all sing the song of the Lamb*

*Just and true are Your ways, King of Ages
So great and marvelous are all Your deeds
Oh Lord God Almighty, who will not fear You
And bring the glory to Your Name*

*A temple in heaven and angels with bowls in their hands
Smoke and glory, and the power of God to command*

*Just and true are Your ways, King of Ages
So great, so marvelous are all Your deeds
Oh Lord God Almighty, who will not fear You
And bring the glory to Your Name*

*Yes, Lord God Almighty, Your judgments are true
They've slain saints and prophets, now give them their
due*

*Just and true are Your ways, King of Ages
So great, so marvelous are all Your deeds
Oh Lord God Almighty, who will not fear You
And bring the glory to,
And bring the glory to,
And bring the glory to Your Name.*

***Doxology (tune Old 100th)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Merry

***Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision"** (*located in this bulletin*)

***Invitation, Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: "Little Preludes & Intermezzos, Op.9."

Hermann Schroeder
I. Maestoso

Craig Dobbins

Rejoice, You Righteous, in the Lord

PSALM 33

A^b Fm E^b D^b E^b A^b

1 Re - joice, you right-eous, in the Lord, in song your voic - es raise;
 2 Let ev - ery na - tion, ev - ery land u - nite with one ac - cord,
 3 Be - hold, God's ev - er-watch-ful eye sees through our dark de - spair;

Fm E^b D^b E^b_{sus} E^b A^b

a - wake the psal - ter - y and harp, lift up God's name in praise!
 and hum - bly lay their heart-felt prayers in awe be - fore the Lord.
 the arms of grace en - cir - cle us with strong, yet ten - der care;

E^b A^b E^b

For by God's word the heavens were hung; God laid the sea and land,
 How hap - py are God's faith - ful ones, how blest God's cho - sen heirs,
 the hope of all the a - ges past, that sets at peace our fears,

A^b Fm E^b D^b E^b_{sus} E^b A^b

and all that fills the fir - ma - ment were made at God's com - mand.
 for sure - ly an in - her - i - tance of glo - ry shall be theirs!
 God's mer - cy and God's stead - fast love shall fol - low all our years.

As the Deer

PSALM 42:1

D A/C# Bm Bm/A G Asus A

As the deer pants for the wa - ter, so my soul longs af - ter

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The melody in the top staff begins with a quarter note D4, followed by quarter notes E4, F#4, and G4. The bass line in the bottom staff consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment starting on G2.

D A/C# Bm D

you; you a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I

Detailed description: This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff continues the melody from the first system, with notes G4, F#4, E4, and D4. The bass line continues with eighth notes. The time signature changes to 3/8 for the final measure of this system.

Em7 A7sus A7 D Bm Bm/A

long to wor - ship you. You a - lone are my

Detailed description: This system contains the third two staves of music. The top staff features a series of chords: Em7, A7sus, A7, D, Bm, and Bm/A. The melody is mostly held notes. The bass line continues with eighth notes. A double bar line is present after the first measure of this system.

G D/F# G Bm/F# Em F#sus F#

strength, my shield; to you a - lone may my spir - it yield;

Detailed description: This system contains the fourth two staves of music. The top staff features a series of chords: G, D/F#, G, Bm/F#, Em, F#sus, and F#. The melody consists of quarter notes. The bass line continues with eighth notes.

D A/C# Bm D Em7 A7sus A7 D

you a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you!

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth two staves of music. The top staff features a series of chords: D, A/C#, Bm, D, Em7, A7sus, A7, and D. The melody consists of quarter notes. The bass line continues with eighth notes.

Be Thou My Vision

E^b *A^b* *Cm* *B^b* *E^b*

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

B^b *A^b* *B^b*

naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's sun!

A^b *E^b* *Cm* *A^b* *B^b*

thou my best thought, — by day or by night;
 Thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be,
 thou and thou on - ly first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

E^b *Cm* *A^b* *Fm* *E^b*

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing and I one with thee.
 high King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

Ready to Belong, Grow, and Thrive at FPCP? – Join Us Again on March 16!

You are invited to join us for our second **New Member Class** at **9:30 AM** in the cafeteria space downstairs on **Sunday, March 16**. During this welcoming and informative session, we will share our stories, review our helpful *New Members Guide*, discuss the central beliefs of the Christian faith and talk about ways you can become involved—all in a relaxed setting! After completion, you will be invited to a simple and joyful induction during our worship service on **Sunday, March 23**, at 10:45 AM. We can't wait to officially welcome you to our church family!

Volunteer Cooks Needed for The Cellar

Do you like to cook? Put your passion to work by helping us feed and encourage downtown teens! *The Cellar* is a welcoming refuge for downtown teens every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3 to 6 pm. Not only does *The Cellar* provide a safe space for teens to hang out, but it also serves up to **80 meals each day**—that's **240 meals a week**! This is **our most impactful food ministry**, and we need your help to keep it thriving. We're looking for volunteer cooks to join us one or two days a month. We'll provide the menu, and all the ingredients and supplies. Plus, if you prefer, **you can finish up before the kids even arrive**. If you have a heart for preparing warm, nourishing meals for those who need them most, this is a perfect opportunity to make a difference! For more information on how to help, contact director Joanne at jgalinowski@fpcp.org or call the church office at 412-471 3436 x220.



Hospitality Hour

Join us after worship this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the chapel. If you're visiting with us, we would especially like to get to know you!

Birthday Blessings to:

Ray Gastner and Jason Stryker

Eternal Legacy – April 5, 2025 – LCCC Spring Celebration

Join us to celebrate all that God is doing through the ministry at Ligonier Camp & Conference Center on April 5, 2025, at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center. For more information and to register visit ligoniercamp.org.

A Gift of Hope – April 26, 2025 – Outreached Arms Fundraiser

Join us on April 26, 2025, for "A Gift of Hope" celebration fundraiser hosted by our Ministry Partner, Outreached Arms. Tickets are on sale now! They also need volunteers and donated items to help make the event a success. Visit <https://outreachedarms.betterworld.org/events/a-gift-of-hope> for more info.

Items Needed for Baking Buddy Baskets

The Deacons need your help creating auction/raffle baskets for two upcoming fundraisers:

- **Ligonier Camp & Conference Center** Spring Celebration on April 5th (Basket Color Theme: Earth Tones – green, brown, silver, etc.)
- **Outreached Arms:** A Gift of Hope Celebration on April 26th (Basket Color Theme: Pastel – soft pinks, blues, yellows, etc.)

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed! We could still use a few more items. If you are able to contribute baking items, please drop them off in the Fellowship area by Sunday, **March 23rd**. Suggested items are **grocery store gift cards, hand mixers, cupcake pans, cooling racks, 1 pastel can opener, 1 earth tone spatula, egg separator, sifter**, and any other baking related items. We appreciate your generosity!

First Church Staff

Church Office: 412-471-3436
320 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
www.fpcp.org – info@fpcp.org

INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Daniel B. Merry
dmerry@fpcp.org
ext. 222

WEDDING

COORDINATOR
Megan McFarland
mmcfarland@fpcp.org

PIPER IN RESIDENCE

George Balderose
george@bagpiping.org

SECURITY

Robert Haralson
rharalson@fpcp.org

PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Thomas M. Hall II

OFFICE MANAGER

Cheryl Swartz
cswartz@fpcp.org
ext. 220

MINISTERIAL ASSISTANT

Hannah O'Toole
hotoole@fpcp.org
ext. 210

ACCOUNTANT

Kate Williams
kwilliams@fpcp.org
ext.230

THE CELLAR

Joanne Galinowski, *director*
jgalinowski@fpcp.org

INTERIM MINISTER OF MUSIC

Ruth Ann Reamer
rreamer05@gmail.com

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Norm Brozell
Louis Pack
LaRon Pack
John Radford

VOLUNTEER SOUND/ VIDEO TECHNICIANS

Victor Ndinyah
Doug Williams
Dan Conner
David Charlton
Brian Vertz

Our Sanctuary is open to visitors Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Call to Schedule a Tour!

You can reach the Church Office Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Call: 412-471-3436 | Email: info@fpcp.org | www.fpcp.org.

Visiting Us Today?



Scan Code to Connect with Us!

Giving Online?



Scan Code to Give!

Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get a sticker for your parking ticket at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). Scan both sides of the ticket at the payment booth at the **Oliver, Mellon Square**, and **Smithfield** garages to pay \$1 for parking.