

March 8, 2026



**First Presbyterian  
Church**  
of Pittsburgh

## *Worship Service* – 10:45 am

\*Please stand as you are able

**Prelude:** *Selections from “Five Meditations on ‘Wondrous Love’*  
By Ronald Perera

Alaine Fink, *organ*

**Time of Welcome**

Rev. Dr. Craig M. Walls  
*Senior Pastor*

### *Gathering Before the Word*

\***Responsive Call to Worship**  
(*Psalm 22 v. 1-5*)

Timothy Gricks  
*Liturgist*

Leader: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

**People: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night but find no rest.**

Leader: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**People: In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

**All: To you they cried and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

\***Hymn #35:** “*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*” (located in this bulletin)

**Call to Confession**

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

Timothy Gricks

**H**eavenly and gracious Father, we confess that it is all too easy for us to forget that your son Jesus was sent to save us from our sins. We forget that we cannot save ourselves, and that it is only by your grace, through the saving death of Jesus on the cross, that the memory of our sins is wiped out and we become free to serve only you. We confess that instead of allowing ourselves to become less so that Jesus becomes first in our lives, we have a stubborn tendency to put ourselves first. We continually reap the consequence of this sin. Forgive us Lord and grant us the will to repent and turn back toward you. We ask that you also forgive our personal sins that we now confess to you silently. *Amen.*

## Time of Silent Prayer and Confession

### Assurance of Forgiveness

### Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Walls

### The Lord's Prayer

**O**ur 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.*

### Children's Message

Rev. Walls

**\*Hymn #370:** *"This Is My Father's World"* (located in this bulletin)

## *Proclaiming the Word*

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 27: 45 - 46

Timothy Gricks

<sup>45</sup>From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup>And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem:** *"Bound Upon the Accursed Tree"*

Anderson Larceda, *violin*

By Dale Wood

*Bound upon the accursed tree,  
Faint and bleeding, who is He?  
By the eyes so pale and dim,  
Streaming blood and writhing limb?*

*By the flesh with scourges torn,  
By the crown of twisted thorn,  
By the side so deeply pierced,  
By the baffled, burning thirst?*

*Bound upon the accursed tree,  
Dread and awful, who is He?  
By the sun at noonday pale,  
Shiv'ring rocks and rending veil?*

*Lo! Beneath the blackened sky,  
Hear His last and bitter cry.  
Crucified, we know Thee now:  
Son of God! 'tis Thou! 'tis Thou!*

**Sermon:** "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

Rev. Walls

## *Responding to the Word*

### **\*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed**

**W**e 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.*

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

Rev. Walls

**Offertory:** "Wayfaring Stranger" - American Folk Song  
Arr. Richard Walters

Alexander Policicchio, *soloist*

### **\*Doxology**

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. Walls

**\*Hymn #223:** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (located in this bulletin)

### **\*Invitation, Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude:** Selections from "Five Meditations on 'Wondrous Love'"  
By Rônal Perera

Alaine Fink, *organ*



## 35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly  
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his  
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

## This Is My Father's World 370

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis - tening ears all  
2 This is my Fa-ther's world. O, let me ne'er for - get that

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
This is my Fa-ther's world. The bat - tle is not done: Je -

rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the won - ders wrought.  
sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heaven be one.

When pastor of a Presbyterian church in Lockport, New York, the author of this text referred to his morning walks as "going out to see my Father's world." The tune created for these words is based on an English melody the composer learned from his mother when he was a boy.

# When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 223

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watts's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.

## Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

### 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!

### Sunday School

*The Cornerstone Class* continues to explore the early Church through a study of the **Book of Acts**. The class meets from **9:30 - 10:30 a.m.** in **Room #17** (chapel area, next to the stage). If you'd like to join them for fellowship and learning, please contact **Charlie Claudon at 412-400-4868**. Children's Sunday School also continues in Room 4 downstairs. All children are invited.

### Nominations Request

The 2026 Nominating Committee invites members of FPCP to propose candidates for vacant Officer positions. Nominating forms and a secure drop box can be found in the chapel.

### Easter Flowers

This Easter, our sanctuary will be decorated with beautiful white lilies and mixed-color tulips, available for purchase at \$15 each. A portion of the proceeds will support a floral arrangement for the lower pulpit. Donors and the individuals honored or memorialized will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

**Order deadline: Friday, March 27**

To place an order, contact **Carly** at **412-471-3436** or **cblack@fpcp.org**. If ordering by email, please include:

- The quantity and type of plant(s)
- The wording for any "in memory of" or "in honor of" designation
- How your donor name should appear
- Whether you will take the plants after the Easter Sunday service

Checks (payable to the church) may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

### Samuel and Claire Bell Grant for LCCC Scholarship

**Scholarship funds are once again for children and grandchildren of FPCP members** to attend Ligonier Camp through the **Samuel and Claire Bell Grant**, thanks to The Pittsburgh Foundation.

Children can attend **Little Ligs** starting at age 6 (2-night stay), and **Classic Camp** beginning at age 8 (1-week session). For more details about camp sessions, visit [www.ligoniercamp.org](http://www.ligoniercamp.org). For questions about the Bell Grant, **contact the church office** at 412-471-3436.

## Looking Ahead . . .



### Worship with us during Holy Week:

**Maundy Thursday Service - April 2 - 7:00 pm** - This will be both a Communion and a Tenebrae service.

**Good Friday: April 3 - 12:00 pm** - Service followed by a City-wide Prayer Walk.

**Annual Congregational Meeting** will take place on **April 12<sup>th</sup>** following the worship service.

**Marathon Sunday - Volunteers Needed** - This year's marathon will take place on **Sunday, May 3**. Our building will be open that morning to provide restroom access for runners and visitors. We are seeking volunteers to serve as building monitors and individuals to join **Rev. Walls** in offering **prayer and spiritual support** to runners beginning at 5:00 a.m. If you can help, please contact the church office at **412-471-3436 x213** or **cblack@fpcp.org**

**New Summer Worship Time** - Beginning **June 14** and continuing through September 6, Session has unanimously approved moving Sunday worship to **9:30 a.m.** to take advantage of the cooler morning temperatures.

## First Church Staff and Clergy

Church Office: 412-471-3436  
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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, 8:00 am to 4:00 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.

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