March 15, 2026

First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

Worship Service – 10:45 am

*Please stand as you are able

Prelude: Excerpt from *"Fantasie Negre"* — Alaine Fink, *organ*
By Florence B. Price

Time of Welcome — Rev. Dr. Craig M. Walls, *Senior Pastor*

Gathering Before the Word

***Responsive Call to Worship** — Charles Claudon, *Liturgist*

Leader: Come into the light of God.
People: Christ's brightness will guide our way.
Leader: Come into the wisdom of God.
People: The Spirit's insight will reveal new truths.
Leader: Come into the praise of God,
People: Worship opens new doors in our hearts.
Leader: Come drink from the living water of God.
All: Come and drink and never be thirsty.

***Hymn #14:** *"For the Beauty of the Earth"* (located in this bulletin)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession — Charles Claudaon

Christ our Healer, we want to see and be seen fully. We long to heal and be healed fully. We yearn to love and be loved fully. Yet, these desires seem beyond our reach when our minds are set on earthly things and we turn from you. Help us to set our minds instead on you. Help us perceive the possibilities of fullness, of shalom, of your kingdom on this earth. Forgive us our sins and where we have turned away from your grace. Guide us to help live into the reality of your goodness. *Amen.*

Time of Silent Prayer and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Walls

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.*

Children's Message Rev. Walls

***Hymn #792:** *"There Is a Balm in Gilead"* *(located in this bulletin)*

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading: John 19: 28 - 29 Charles Claudon

28 After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am
thirsty." 29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch
of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem: *"Hymn of St. Patrick"* Matthew Sartore and Alexander Policicchio, *soloists*
Arr. Dwight Beal Anderson Larceda, *violin*

Words adapted from the Breastplate Prayer of St. Patrick, 4th century

Christ be with me and within me,
Christ behind me and before.
Christ beside me and to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore.

Christ beneath me and above me,
Christ in quiet and in danger.
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Christ in ev'ry heart that's broken,
Christ in every joy and pain.
Christ in ev'ry word that's spoken,
Christ in sun and moon and rain.

Christ in resting and in rising,
Christ the Lord of all my life.
Christ to guide me and to shield me,
Christ protecting me in strife.

Sermon: "I am Thirsty." Rev. Walls

Responding to the Word

***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.*

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

Offertory: *"Take the World, but Give Me Jesus"* Matthew Sartore, *soloist*
Words by Fanny Crosby, Music by Larry Shackley

***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

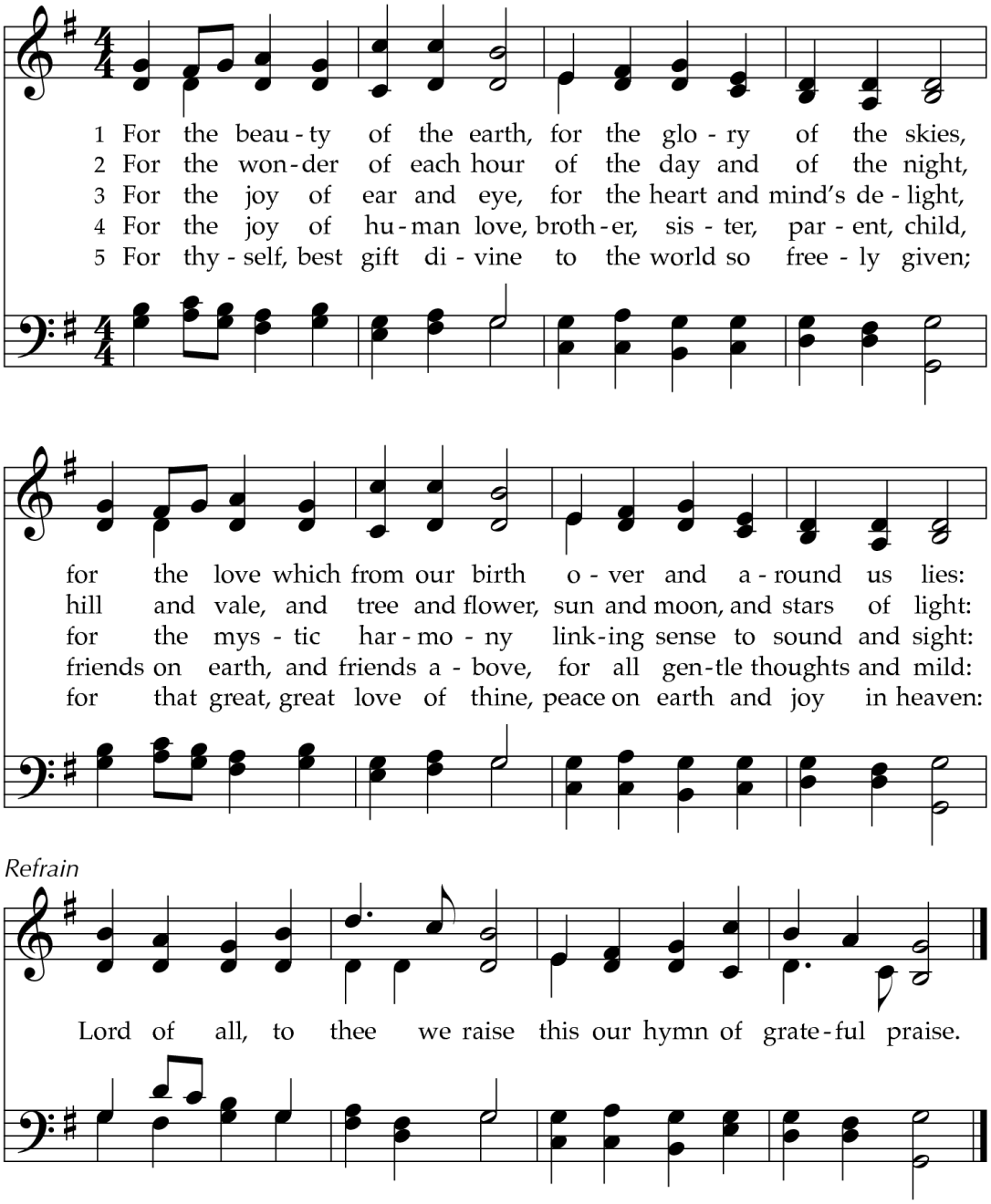
***Hymn #475:** *"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* (located in this bulletin)

***Invitation, Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: Excerpt from *"Fantasie Negre"* Alaine Fink, *organ*
By Florence B. Price

This Sunday's Prelude and Postlude feature the work of Florence Beatrice Price, widely recognized as the first African American woman to gain prominence as a classical orchestral composer. Price studied at the New England Conservatory of Music, where she navigated significant racial discrimination. The selected piece is a virtuosic piano work inspired by the spiritual "Sinner, Please Don't Let This Harvest Pass."

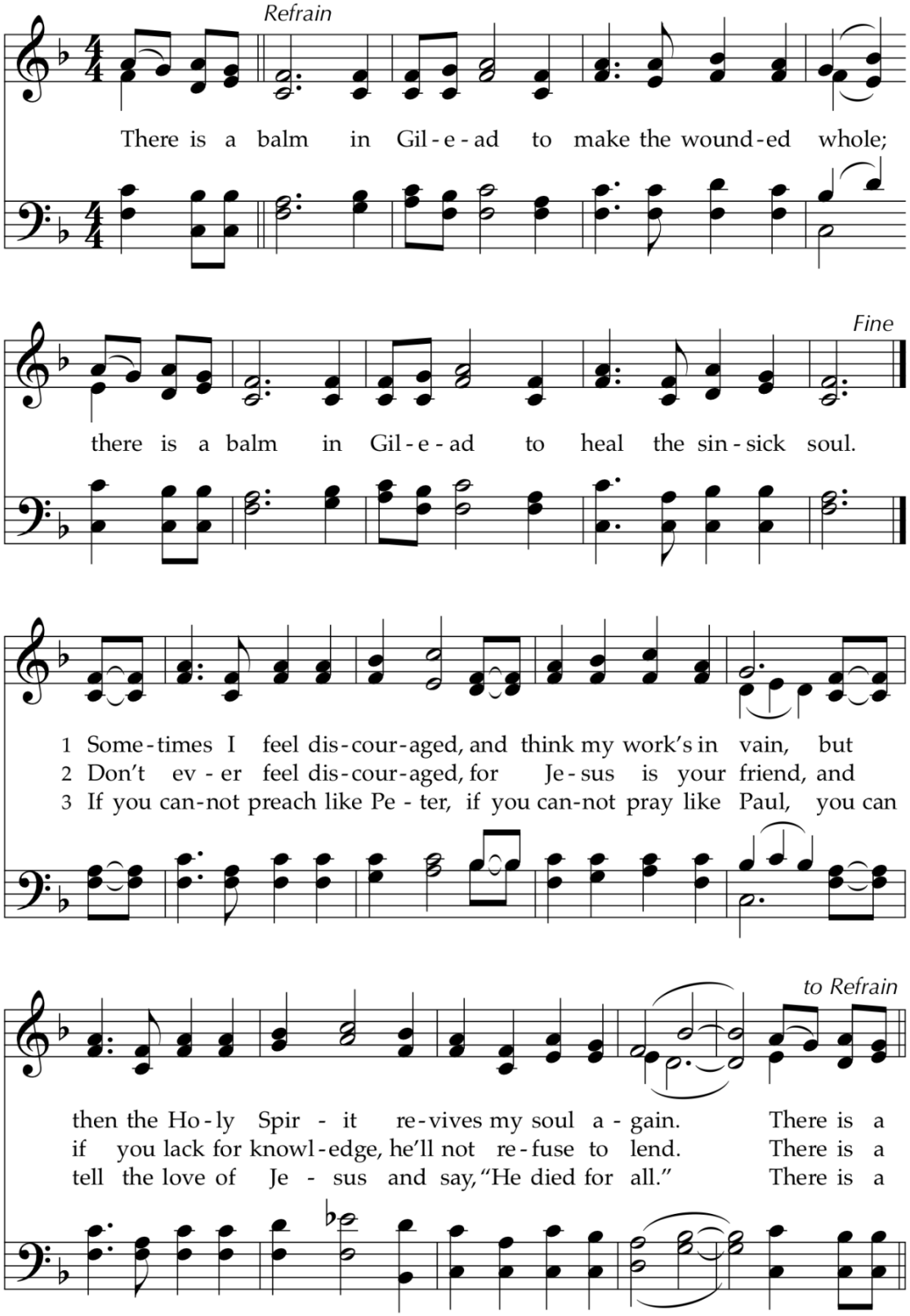
For the Beauty of the Earth 14



In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

TEXT: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt. DIX
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906 7.7.7.7.7.7

There Is a Balm in Gilead 792

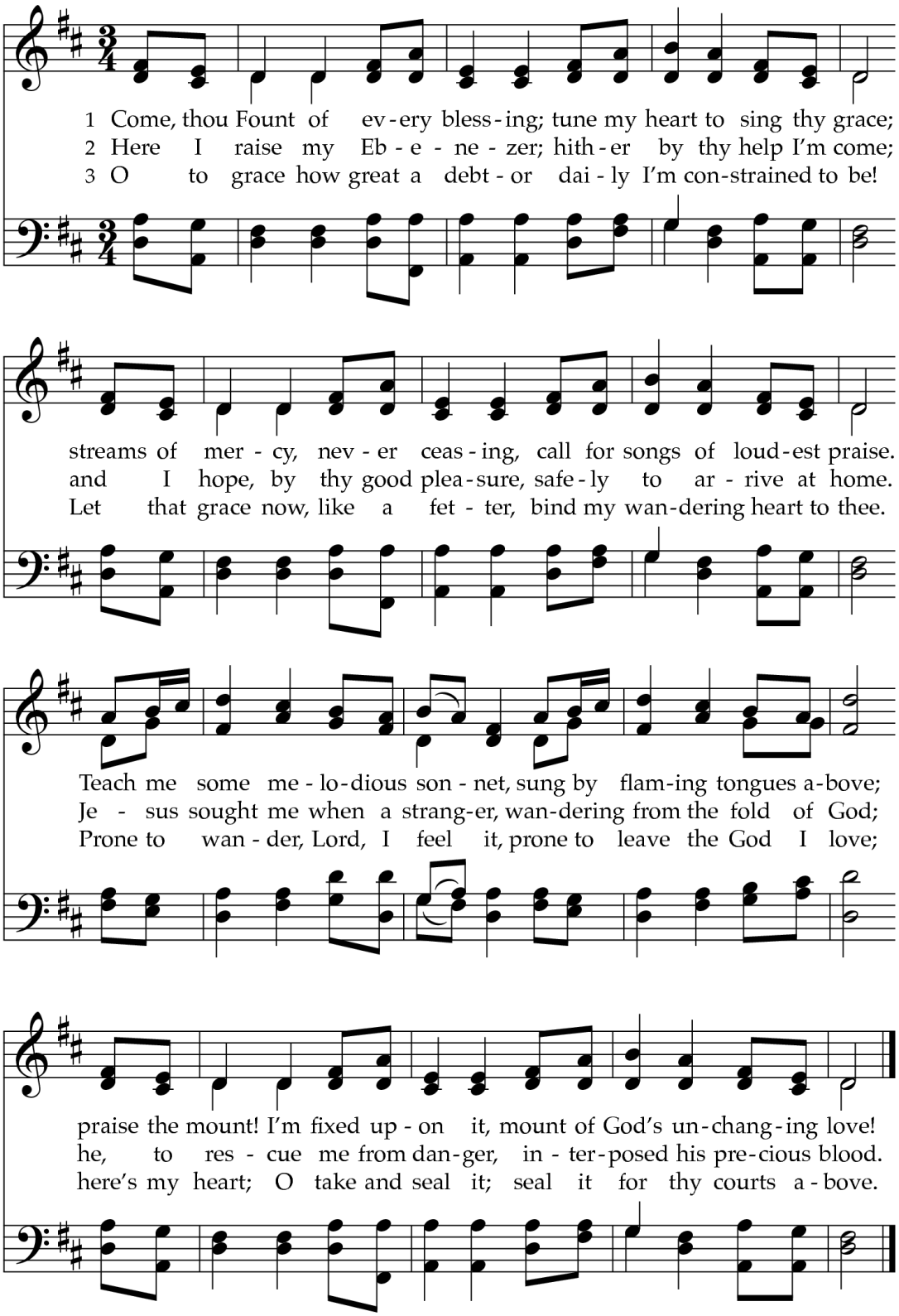


This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989, alt.
Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

BALM IN GILEAD
7.6.7.6 with refrain

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

TEXT: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second,* 1813

NETTLETON
8.7.8.7.D

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 ext. 213** 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.

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.

A New Easter Tradition at First Church!

You are invited to **bring freshly cut flowers on Easter Sunday, April 5th to adorn the First Church Easter Cross**, symbolizing the hope and renewal of the Resurrection. The cross will be prepared with wire mesh to receive fresh flowers, allowing it to be transformed into a floral cross.

Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on **April 12th** 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

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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, 8:00 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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