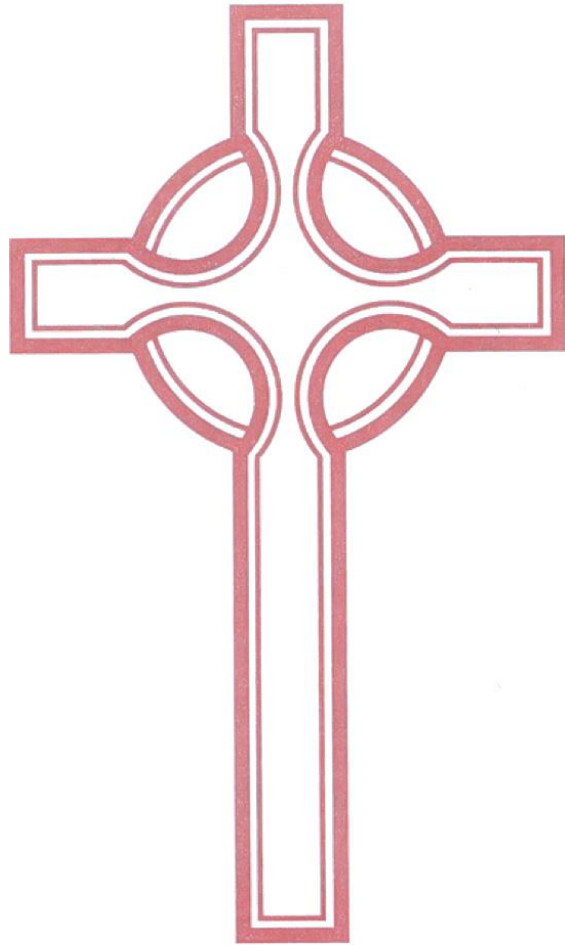


First Presbyterian Church

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www.firstpcportland.org 260-726-8462



Our Vision Statement

“To provide a ministry which will lead people to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and reach out with God’s love.”

1st Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude

Greeting and Announcements

Opening Sentences

*Doxology - all to sing

No. 592

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Call to Worship

Leader: People of God, on this wilderness journey, what will you eat?

People: The word of the Lord is our daily bread.

Leader: People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?

People: Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.

Leader: People of God, at this kingdom crossroad, whom will you serve?

People: We worship the Lord our God alone.

Leader: For forty days and forty nights,

People: led by the Spirit, Christ fasted in the wilderness.

Leader: For forty days and forty nights,

People: we prepare ourselves to meet the crucified and risen Christ.

Leader: Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn

[“O Word of God Incarnate”](#)

*Call to Confession

Psalm 32:1–5

Leader: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven, who no longer suffer in silence, but name their sin and seek God’s grace. When we stay silent, when we do not acknowledge what we need to change, we waste away. Our guilt turns into shame that eats away at us like a poison. God calls us to repent and be healed; let us turn to God. Let us confess our sin.

*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7

Lord God, you know the ways of good and evil. You know the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. You know our

nakedness, and you know our sin. Merciful One, we are so easily tempted. We turn away from your word so quickly. We seek anything that claims to save us from discomfort, inconvenience, pain, fear, and emptiness. But these are false idols, dissolving in the wind. You are our true hope and salvation, our hiding place, our guide, our guardian. We confess our transgressions to you: Lord, forgive our sins. We confess that we have disobeyed your word, denying your providence and care and relying on our own cleverness. Have mercy on us, we pray: cover us with your grace, feed us with the bread of life, and re-create us in your image; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

A Time of Silent Prayer

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Psalm 32:1, 11

Leader: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven! Be glad in the Lord and rejoice! God does not count our sins against us, but offers us a free gift of righteousness. This is good news!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

***Response of Praise**-all to sing

“Gloria Patri”

No. 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen. Amen.

Special Music

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7](#) (NRSV)

Hymn (seated)

“Jesus Loves Me”

No. 304

Jesus loves me! This I know. For the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Children’s Message

(Children may be dismissed to Sunday School following Children’s Message)

Music For Meditation

“[Beneath the Cross of Jesus](#)”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

[Romans 5:12-19](#) (NRSV)

Sermon

“*Justification and Life for All*”

The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People...The Lord’s Prayer (‘debts’ and debtors’)

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn**

“[The Glory of These Forty Days](#)”

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude**

*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

Lectionary readings for March 5, 2023

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17