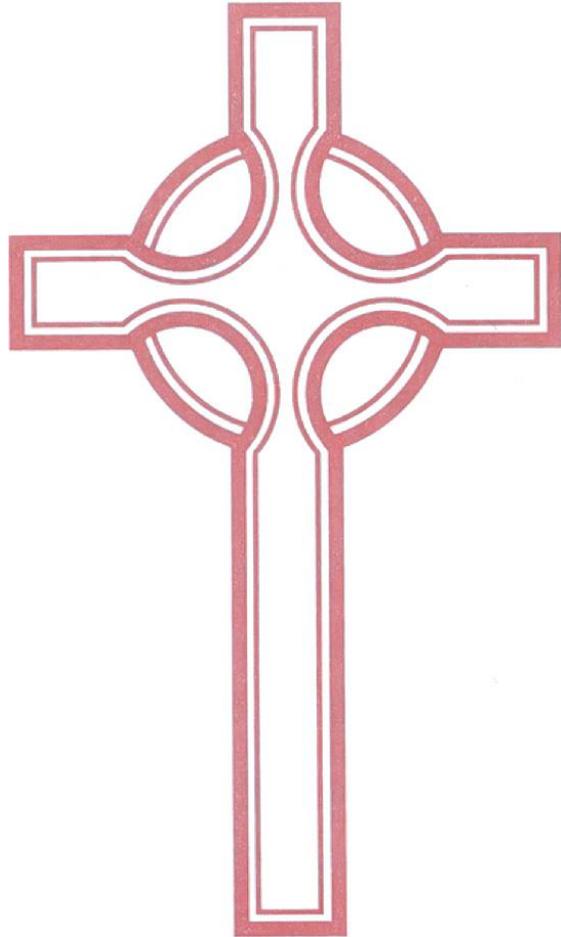


First Presbyterian Church

402 North Ship Street, Portland, Indiana 47371

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.”

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude

From Mass for the Convents

François Couperin

Plein jeu

(1668-1733)

Chromborne sur la Taille

Basse de Trompette

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: Come into God’s presence with thanksgiving!

People: Let us sing to the rock of our salvation.

Leader: Even in the deserts of our lives,

People: God is among us.

Leader: Come, let us worship and bow down;

People: let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

Leader: Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn** [“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”](#)

***Call to Confession**

Leader: God does not wait for us to be righteous, or pure, or perfect. Christ died for us while we were still sinners. We do not have to hide our sin from God, but can face it with Jesus, who heals us, teaches us, and leads us to new life. God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Trusting in God’s overflowing grace, let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

Lord, you know who we are. You know everything we have done. We thirst for things that will never satisfy us. We commit ourselves to things that will never last. We worship things that will never bring salvation. Still, you offer us the gift of living water. Still, you offer us

the gift of eternal life. Forgive us, O Lord, and give us this living water, so that we may never thirst again. Amen.

A Time of Silent Prayer

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: This is the good news of God's grace: Though we were sinners, Christ died for us. Though we were enemies of God, God loved us. Once we were lost and dead—now Christ has become our life and salvation. We know that God is with us even in our sufferings, for suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts. Believe the good news!

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

*Response of Praise—all to sing "Gloria Patri" No. 579

*Gloria 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.*

Anthem "What Wondrous, Marvelous Love" Arr. Mary Ann Cooper

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*Jesus lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
When I was sinking down, O my soul!
When I was sinking down, O my soul!*

*When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul;
He laid aside His crown for my soul!*

*How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be;
How marvelous! How wonderful!
Is my Savior's love for me!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Exodus 17:1-7](#) (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)

Special Music From Sonata in F Major for Flute and Continuo

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)

Largo

Vivace

Puhiza Shensidini, flute & Eric Rogers, organ

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

[Romans 5:1-11](#) (NRSV)

Sermon

"Grace in which We Stand"

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 "[Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken](#)"

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude *Fantasia in C Major* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

Lectionary readings for March 19, 2023

I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41