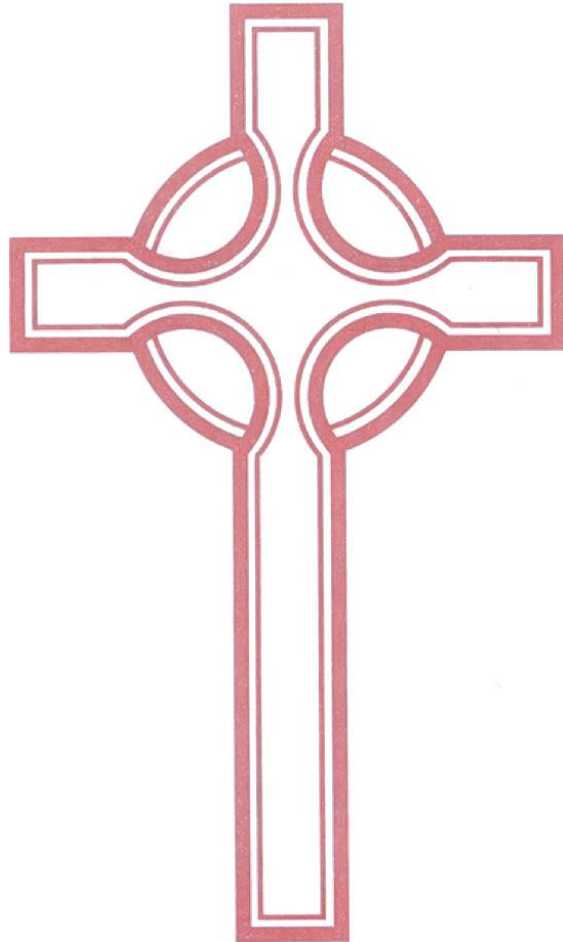


4th Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023

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.”

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: We come to sanctify ourselves.

People: We come seeking to be worthy of our call.

Leader: The Lord looks not at our outward selves,

People: but seeks to know what is in our hearts.

Leader: Let us learn what is pleasing to the Lord,

People: that we might live as children of the Most High.

Leader: Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn [“Arise Your Light Is Come!”](#)

*Call to Confession

Ephesians 5:8–10

Leader: As children of God’s light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may

know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

A Time of Silent Prayer

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: Jesus restores our souls and leads us in right paths for his name's sake. 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

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 [1 Samuel 16:1-13](#) (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 "[Open My Eyes, That I May See](#)"

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading [Ephesians 5:8-14](#) (NRSV)

Sermon

"Christ Will Shine On You"

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 "[Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers](#)"

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

Lectionary readings for March 26, 2023

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45