

First Presbyterian Church

Huntsville, Tennessee

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2018 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 51)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God,

People: And renew right spirits within us.

Leader: Open our lips, O Lord,

People: That our mouths might proclaim your praise.

*Hymn 379

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Invitation to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (said by all)

Almighty God, your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Concerns of the Congregation

Message to the Children

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 9:8-17; **Psalm 25:1-10** (see p. 2)

1 Peter 3:18-22; *Mark 1:9-15

*Gloria Patri

Anthem *I Will Lift Up My Eyes*

Meditation Into the Wilderness

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Intercession for Lent (see page 2)

Offering

Offertory *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Hymn 215 Jesus, Thou Joy of

Loving Hearts

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy . . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, O God . . . Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit . . .

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Amen. Our Father . . .

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer

*Hymn 303 Be Thou My Vision

The Dissolution of the Pastoral Call (p.3)

*Charge and Blessing (p. 3)

*Postlude

Psalm 25:1-10

Lord, I give myself to you. I trust you God;

Do not fail me, nor let my enemies gloat.

No one loyal is shamed,
But traitors know disgrace.

Teach me how to live,
Lord, show me the way.

Steer me toward your truth,
You, my saving God, my constant hope.

Recall your tenderness,
Your lasting love.
Remember me, not my faults, the sins of my youth.

To show your own goodness, God, remember me.

Good and just is the Lord,
Guiding those who stray.

God leads the poor,
Pointing out the path.
God's ways are faithful love
For those who keep the covenant.

Intercession for Lent

Jesus, remember us when you come into your kingdom.

Hear our intercessions.
For your church around the world,

We ask new life.
For all who carry out ministries in your church,

We ask grace and wisdom.
For people who have accepted spiritual disciplines,

We ask inspired discipleship.
For Christians of every land,

We ask new unity in your name.
For people of other faiths,

We ask your divine blessing.
For those who cannot believe,
We ask your faithful love.
For governors and rulers in every land,

We ask your guidance.
For people who suffer and sorrow,
We ask your healing peace.

(a brief silence)

Holy God, your Word, Jesus Christ, spoke peace to a sinful world and brought humanity the gift of reconciliation by the suffering and death he endured.

Teach those who bear his name to follow the example he gave us. May our faith, hope, and charity turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, and death to eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We thank our guest musicians today for their gift of music.

Soprano
Glenda Gray
Jan Scates

Bass
Ryan Hoffman
David Snodgrass
Sam Thienemann

Flute
Tracey Stansberry

Dissolution of a Pastoral Call

After the statements of a member of the session and the pastor, the following responsive prayer is said:

Prayer

The member of session says:

Let us pray for the saving presence of our living Lord:

In your world,

Be present, Lord.

In this congregation,

Be present, Lord.

In this community,

Be present, Lord.

In this presbytery and the whole church,

Be present, Lord.

In the homes and hearts of all your people,

Be present, Lord.

The pastor continues:

Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord:

For work begun and not completed,

Lord, have mercy.

For expectations not met,

Lord, have mercy.

For wounds not healed,

Lord, have mercy.

For gifts not shared,

Lord, have mercy.

For promises not kept,

Lord, have mercy.

The member of session continues:

Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place:

For friendships made,
for joys celebrated,
and for times of nurture and growth,

Thanks be to God.

For wounds healed,
expectations met,
gifts given and promises kept,

Thanks be to God.

For our fellowship in Jesus Christ,
and for the love of God which has sustained us,

Thanks be to God.

The Dissolution

The presbytery representative addresses the congregation:

Do you, the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, release Martha Anne from service as your pastor?

We do, with thanks to God.

Do you, Martha Anne, recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with this congregation?

I do, with thanks to God.

Let us pray:

Loving God, Alpha and Omega,
you are both beginning and end.

Our endings and our beginnings are rooted in your love. Whether near or far, we are held close by your love, and kept safe from any lasting loss. Let our time together end with your blessing. Touch all memories with your grace and peace. Help us to live with courage and gladness in the future you present us. In every time and place, may we offer you our highest and our best, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The presbytery representative continues:

Representing the Presbytery of East Tennessee, I witness these words of thanksgiving, forgiveness, and release. The presbytery rejoices with you in the ministry you have shared, and we pledge to you continued support and prayer.

With thanks to God for the ministry of this congregation and the ministry of God's servant Martha Anne, and with hope for God's abiding grace in the years to come, this pastoral relationship is now dissolved.

Charge

The representative of presbytery continues:

With God's help and love may your lives be blessed and your labors fruitful as you offer yourselves gladly in the service of our common Lord.

Blessing

The pastor gives God's blessing to the congregation, concluding with these words:

Go in peace.

The congregation responds,

Go in peace.