

Upcoming Events

The chancel flowers are given by Lori Drake to the glory of God and in memory of her father, Ben Burdette.

Easter Flowers. Please call or e-mail the church office or see Barbara Matlack to place your order for Easter flowers. Cost per flower is \$10. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church with the notation for Easter Flowers. Orders must be placed by April 10.

Easter Sunday Flowering the Cross. Join us next Sunday, at 10:30 a.m. on the church front lawn for refreshments after worship. In case of inclement weather we will meet in the Heritage Room. Bring some cut flowers and help us decorate the cross and bring it alive with color as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Capital Campaign:

Goal: \$75,400
 Received: \$29,565
 Pledged: \$16,500
 Still Needed: \$29,335

Suggested Daily Reading from Luke's Gospel

Monday Luke 19:45-48
 Tuesday Luke 20
 Wednesday Luke 21
 Thursday Luke 22:1-65
 Friday Luke 22:66-23:49
 Saturday Luke 23:50-56
 Sunday: Luke 24

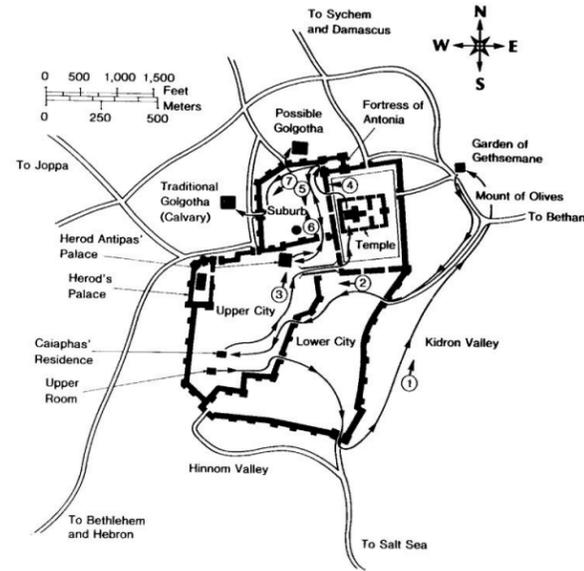
Apostles Creed

I 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Lenten Series

Each Wednesday during Lent a service will be held at 7pm. The schedule is:

- Maundy Thursday, April 13 at Mt. Airy
- Good Friday, April 14 at Mt. Airy at Noon and at Kirkpatrick at 7 pm
- Sunday, April 16, Easter Sunrise at Washington Crossing Park at 6:30 am



Jerusalem, with the locations of the Gospel events during Holy Week

Session:

Class of 2017
 Barbara Matlack
 Randy Niederer

Class of 2018
 Patti Manz
 Tim Shaub

Class of 2019
 Mark Niederer
 Kristine Schmidt, Clerk

Deacons:

Class of 2017
 Judy Niederer, Secretary

Class of 2018
 Gail Butterfoss
 Lettie Ritner, Vice-Moderator

Class of 2019
 Chris Manz, Moderator

Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Good
 Worship Assistant: Randy Niederer
 Ministers: All members of Titusville Church

The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, *Pastor Emeritus*
 Barbara Matlack, *Office Administrator*
 Jon and Helen Eastburn, *Music Directors*

April 9, 2017



Let us worship God!
 Today is Palm Sunday: Lift up your voice and sing! As we gather, open your heart to enter more deeply and intentionally into Holy Week. You are invited to gather for more than today's celebration and Easter's joy. Open Luke's Gospel this week at home. Go to Dark Gethsemane and see the Lord's amazing love.

Gather with believers during our combined services. Draw near to Jesus Christ. "Come near to God, and he will come near to you" (James 4:8). In our extraordinary story, we read of three visitors staying with Abraham and Sarah. Preparations were made for the guests. We prepare our hearts to meet the Lord.



Call to Worship

Psalm 118:26-29

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. **The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With palms in hand, we join in the festal celebration up to the Horns of the altar.**

You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love endures forever.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Holy Lord, All praise and honor belong to you. You are the holy One, and we behold today, and this week, your rescuing work of long ago. Thank you, by your amazing grace, I know your salvation. You are my strength and my defense. I turn to you now for refuge from the forces that wage war against me. I ask forgiveness for my sins. Today, I turn to you. Lord, have mercy on me: for you are good, and your love endures forever. Praise to you, gracious and holy Lord.

...Let us pause for a silent time of personal confession...



Order of Liturgy

Prelude
 *Call to Worship (page 1)
 *Opening Hymn/ Prayer (page 1)
 Confession (page 1)
 —call, prayer, assurance
 *Gloria patri
 Scripture (page 1)
 Message
 *Hymn of Response (page 1)
 *Apostles Creed (page 4)
 *New City Catechism (page 2)
 Announcements
 Prayers of the People
 Offering
 Offertory: "Where You There"
 *Doxology
 *Sending Hymn (page 1)
 Benediction
 Choral Benediction

*Please stand if able

Scripture

Psalm 122 (page 440)
 Genesis 18:1-15 (page 11)
 Luke 18:31-19:44 (page 743)

The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

Songs for Today

Opening Hymns
 #297 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"
 #104 "O Worship The King"
 Hymn of Response
 Insert "Come people of the risen King"
 Sending Hymn
 #300 "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

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Notes on Morning Scripture

18:1 in the Bible a theophany is a visible appearance of God, or his messenger, the angel of the Lord.

18:1 the trees of Mamre are mentioned in Genesis 13:18, 14:13, here and 23:17

18:5 providing meals to a guest was expected in ancient culture, and a guest refusing hospitality was an enemy like action

18:14 see Luke 1:37, Matthew 19:26

Psalm 122 song sung by worshippers climbing the temple steps to worship

Luke 18:31,33 Luke records earlier predictions by Jesus of his death in 9:21 and 9:43

Luke 19:13 a mina was worth three months wages

Luke 19:22 some other references to reaping and sowing include Proverbs 22:8, Hosea 10:12, John 4:37, II Corinthians 9:6, Galatians 6:7-8

Luke 19:30 leaders entered cities by horse in times of war, and colts with messages of peace, see Zechariah 9:9

Luke 19:38 is a quote from Psalm 118:26

Web Link

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/help-give-away-the-new-city-catechism-devotional-for-the-global-church> suggested here for its related articles, including songs for some of the early questions we've already used.

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/bakers-evangelical-dictionary/theophany.html> summary of theophany in the Bible (God appears)

www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/18855226/how-enjoy-baseball some good advice as the baseball season starts up

<https://markdriscoll.org/sermons/jesus-and-zacchaeus/> a sermon on the story of Zacchaeus, which develops thoughts on repentance and restitution

<https://www.inc.com/paul-schoemaker/6-habits-of-strategic-thinkers.html>

www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2007/july-online-only/le-031112a.html

<https://donate.worldvision.org/ways-to-give?10-most-popular-gifts/?campaign>

to be considered alongside the parable of the minas, these sites include a mainstream list for strategic thinking, a pastoral look at biblical leaders who were strategic thinkers, and an example of a Christian organization attempting to be smart in how it spreads its impact

www.desiringgod.org/messages/o-that-you-knew-the-terms-of-peace a Palm Sunday sermon on Luke 19:41-44

www.understandchristianity.com/timelines/events-holy-week interactive map of the events of Holy Week

New City Catechism

A 52 question catechism developed by Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. For an introduction to this catechism, visit: <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/intro.php>

Part 1: God, Creation and Fall, Law

Week 17 What is idolatry?

Answer: **Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.**

To learn more about Question 17, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/17>

Editorial: Preparing for Holy Week

Today, we raise our palms and sing with joy of Christ as King. Psalm 118, often read on Palm Sunday, welcomes the hearer to raise their palm branches in praise. The people did just this when Jesus rode the colt into Jerusalem, announcing his reign. Christ's reign affirms the simple and beautiful song:

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.” Psalm 118:1

The Psalmist goes on to identify two common experiences in which we relate to the LORD: when hard pressed, and in spacious place.

“When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD; he brought me into a spacious place” 118:5

We see God's salvation when we cry out from the hard pressed place in verses 6-14. We see God's good work of bringing us to spacious places in verses 15-29. Being hard pressed comes in two forms. First, there is being hard pressed which leads us to cry out to God and find his salvation. This is what Psalm 118 identifies. But there is also trying to find our way out of being hard pressed by looking only to our self, and not God. This state can lead us to say the opposite of what we should say in this state: God is not with me, I am afraid, I can't do anything about it, God doesn't help me, I am lost. But of course, this is not what the Psalm says: When we are hard pressed, we are to call the name of the Lord, and to behold the LORD's salvation.

We also experience times when the Lord brings us into a spacious place. This is when we see God as glorious. We are able to join with the Psalmist: The Lord is good, and his love endures forever.

From this spacious place we can see those things that make us hard pressed. We see them in their true light. We can see them standing next to God, and they no longer look too big, too imposing, too large. They are what they are. These too shall pass. In the spacious place we behold the God who presides over all creation and to God our song is directed.

Being in spacious place allows us to ascribe to the LORD his powerful works, to receive correction, to enter the righteous gates of the city of God, to know God as the cornerstone, to lift up branches and to enter a festal procession. Entering God's gift of spacious place allows us to sing with all the emotions born from Holy Week. It also allows us to sing the new song: Christ is risen, he is risen indeed.

Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life
(offered in 4/9 worship by the congregation)

Dear Tabby, Raising Life (issues) Acts 9:36

Dear Tabby,

Sometimes, I face moments where I must quickly decide between telling the truth and telling a white lie. Is it really that bad if I don't want to upset people? Can't God overlook these little offenses?

Not Sure in New Hope

Dear Not Sure,

Sarah was alone in her tent when she heard the holy visitors speak that she would give birth to a son. Her reaction was to laugh: perhaps more of a quiet scoff. When the visitor asks Abram why Sarah laughed, Scripture says, “Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, ‘I did not laugh’. But the visitor said, ‘Yes, you did laugh’.

Lying requires too much energy. It is a needless use of life: You are doubling your work. When lying, you must remember the story that you've made up, with its details, as well as what is true. It is easier to speak simply and to tell the truth. Sarah was caught up in the moment, and all of us have been there. Our goal should be to speak truthfully, for our Savior called himself the truth. If we start lying, it might not be as simple to stop as we would think. If we speak truthfully, we can face our neighbor, and be at peace.

The Apostle Paul teaches the Church in Ephesus that they are new creatures in Christ. They can leave the deceptive ways of godlessness and put on the new self, “created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” (4:24). This gift promises a far more enriching life than the web that lies trap us in.

Paul also teaches “Each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body” (4:25).

The Gospel of Luke reminds us that there is much work to do for the kingdom. There isn't time to lie, especially to our brothers and sisters in the faith. There are people who want to see Christ—our truth-telling can help in that endeavor. There is the parable of the Minas: we've are to be stewards of what God has given us, and will give account of our work. There is no time to waste. Jesus, on that first Palm Sunday, announced he was King! How does lying, however small, help announce that good news?

Why are there no small sins? Because God is holy. Anything that falls short of glory is a serious and harmful business.