

First Presbyterian Church Wooster, Ohio

Third Sunday in Lent
March 7, 2021

First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community dedicated to showing God's love through worship, study, social justice, mission outreach, and fellowship.



**More Light Church and Member of Covenant Network
Earth Care Congregation and a Matthew 25 Church**

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

PRELUDE

Aria

Paul Manz

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Don Beane

One: When our hearts are troubled,

All: let us draw near to the One who shelters us with love.

One: When others disappoint and leave us,

All: let us turn to the One who takes up the cause of those who suffer and defends the powerless.

One: In hope, in longing, in trust, in community,

All: let us worship in the presence of God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

From your hands, O God, comes our good and the good of all creation.

From our hands, O God, receive our joyful thanks and trust.

For within our remembrance and our hope, you give us cause to celebrate
and the means to share your love and grace with all. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: In the words of scripture and the rituals of community,
we know your desire for us, nurturing God.

**All: You yearn for us to make a home in the shelter of your love,
but we often resist and push you away.**

One: We find belonging in soul-less places
and merely exist in the chaos of our scattered lives.

**All: When we become aware of our deepest selves again,
we come to know our own longings to be enfolded in the wings of your love.**

One: You birthed us from the heart of your imagination.

As we draw near to you, sustain us with your constant presence.

All: Enable us to know ourselves completely in the shadow of your love.

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

Gracious God, hear our prayers. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

In every wilderness, on every road, in every moment, in every life, God is with us,
bearing the gifts of forgiveness, courage, and unending love.

So let us, with renewed hope, celebrate the richness and diversity of life in God's presence. **Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Kathy and Aniyah Odenkirk

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Erin Guzmán

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

MUSICAL OFFERING

Psalm 130 (Out of the Depths)

John Ferguson

Elizabeth Perkins, Emily Hasecke, Will McCullough, Carter Rogers

SCRIPTURE

Mark 8:31-37

SERMON

Our Calling Today

HYMN 727 (see next page for the music)

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

THE SERVANT SONG

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love

arr. Wilbur Held

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*. Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/>

Earth Care Pledge: Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

The Mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace. We are called to achieve this goal by furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, and by working for the unity of the PC(USA). The Covenant Network of Presbyterians calls the church to bear a unified witness to generous hospitality and faithful justice.

The Mission of More Light Presbyterians: Following the risen Christ and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQIA+) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

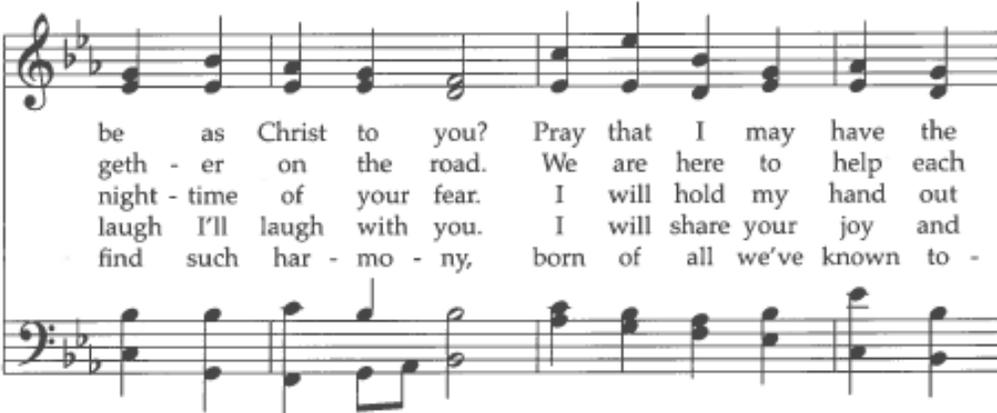
The Mission of the Matthew 25 Church: Matthew 25:31-46 calls us to actively engage the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. We commit ourselves to congregational vitality by acting boldly and compassionately to end systemic poverty and structural racism, serving people who are oppressed, imprisoned, poor.

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song



1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall



be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
 geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
 night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
 laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
 find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -



grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
 to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
 (repeat stanza 1)

The opening and closing stanza expresses the essence of this folk-style song about the mutuality of servant ministry: those who serve must also be willing to be served. This is what Christ intended when he commanded the disciples to "wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).