

March 30, 2025; 9:00 am
Fourth Sunday in Lent

We Gather Together

***Welcome** to today's Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on zoom, watching on our YouTube channel, or listening on KFIZ, we are glad you are here. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave the sanctuary after worship.*

Prelude: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

arr. by J. Bert Carlson, Charles Callahan and Don Hustad

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

Ringing of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship**

Les M., liturgist

How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!

For all those times when we have fallen short of what God would have us be, we have been forgiven.

God makes us new in God's Spirit!

Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life which God offers to us.

Come, let us worship and be thankful.

Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God. AMEN.

***Opening Prayer**

How incredible is your love, O God! We have been made new in your love and reconciled to you and to each other in peace and joy. Be with us this day as we hear your words of comfort and hope. Guide our lives that we may serve you more fully all of our days. AMEN.

***Sung Response: GTG 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

Carol W., Kim M., Phyllis M., Kay M., Joanne M., Cantors

***Call to Confession**

Les M.

We have been buried with Christ in baptism, in order that we might be raised to new life with him through faith in the power of God. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession**

Les M.

Lord, it is interesting that it is easy for us to identify with today's scripture about the "Prodigal Son". Some of us are easily reminded of our own selfishness and stubbornness when we willfully sought our own way. Others are reminded about how angry we were when others were not held accountable for their actions, when we have been so careful not to displease anyone. Still others can identify with the father who, feeling the loss of his son, welcomes him home again, reminding the brother that he has always been in the love and care of the Father. We hear this story and it's a pleasant memory. But do we really understand what it is about? Do we know that we have also been stubborn and selfish, angry and unforgiving, sorrowful and caught between two conflicting factions? We are no different from these characters, in our own unique way. Yet, in God's infinite love, we also are forgiven and healed. We are called to turn our lives back to God's care, which is always extended to us.

Silent Confession

(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)

Forgive us and heal us, gracious God. **Open our hearts and our spirits to truly receive the blessings of your grace. For it is in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, that we pray. AMEN.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Once we were "dead" to all the things that God hoped for us; but through the generous gift of God's grace we are again brought to life. Rejoice!
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

***Sharing God's Peace**

Hear this command from Ephesians 4:32: "Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ."

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not

wish to shake hands or be too close. We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.)

***Sung Response: GTG 610 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” vs. 1**

God’s Word Is Proclaimed

Psalm Reading: Psalm 32 (Common English Bible)

page 506 in the pew Bible (NRSV), page 686 (CEB)

The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven,
whose sin is covered over, is truly happy!

**The one the Lord doesn’t consider guilty—
in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—
that one is truly happy!**

When I kept quiet, my bones wore out;

I was groaning all day long—

every day, every night!—

because your hand was heavy upon me.

My energy was sapped as if in a summer drought.

So I admitted my sin to you;

I didn’t conceal my guilt.

“I’ll confess my sins to the Lord,” is what I said.

Then you removed the guilt of my sin.

That’s why all the faithful should pray to you during troubled times,
so that a great flood of water won’t reach them.

You are my secret hideout!

You protect me from trouble.

You surround me with songs of rescue!

I will instruct you and teach you

about the direction you should go.

I’ll advise you and keep my eye on you.

Don’t be like some senseless horse or mule,

whose movement must be controlled

with a bit and a bridle.

Don't be anything like that!
The pain of the wicked is severe,
but faithful love surrounds the one who trusts the Lord.
You who are righteous, rejoice in the Lord and be glad!
All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (Common English Bible)

page 78 in the pew Bible (NRSV), page 1271 (CEB)

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Jesus told them this parable:

Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

"When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands."' ' So he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

Children’s Time

Jennifer Zander

HYMN: GTG 418 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

Sermon: “The Gift of Grace”

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

We Respond to God’s Word

The Practice of Gratitude

In response to God’s Word and remembering all things come from God, we offer with thanks a portion of that which God has entrusted to us. The ushers will collect God’s tithes and our offerings. For those who have given in other forms, there are cards in the pew racks that you may use as a tangible action of gratitude to God. No matter what we return to God in material forms, may we spiritually place our hearts, and our very lives, in God’s hands, to be re-shaped for ministry in Christ, furthering God’s kingdom here on earth.

Offering Music: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Henry H., organist

***Offertory: GTG 647** “Give Thanks”

***Offertory Prayer**

Prayers of the People

Andy L.	Gib D.	Marie L.
Anna J* (Katy J. mom)	Pete D.	Paige T.
Arnold L.	Jesse F.	Pass Family
Bob & Ollive B.	Joan K.*(Marcus A. mom)	Pat D.
Brian C.	Kathy A*(Kevin B sister)	Pat M.* (Bonnie H sister)
Chastity G. & Joan S.	Kathy G.	Paul W.
Corinne C.	Liam A.	Qualine S.* (Jodi A mom)
Dick and Maryann*	Lindsay *(Bill/Mary daughter)	Sherry M.
Elias B.* (Laurie C grandson)	Lynn M.	Steven B.*(Kevin B nephew)

The names in **bold** are new to the prayer list. The names with an asterisk (*) are not church members. However, a church member has received permission to ask that they be lifted in prayer. Prayer request cards are available in the Prayer Box in the Narthex, in the church pews, or online ([click here](#)). You can place your prayer request in the offering plate or the lock box at the church office door. For electronic prayer requests, please complete the form and click submit. If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before or after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425), press #2 for Pastoral Care.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, in this neighborhood as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

***Sung response: "Amazing Grace" (My Chains Are Gone)**

***Taking the Light of Christ into the World**

***Charge and Benediction**

May grace and peace be yours in abundance. Like good stewards of the abundant grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. To God be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR MARCH 23,2025

Individuals in Person: 88

Zoom Households: 05

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
3/23/2025	3998.00	Tithes/Offerings
	137.00	Special Offerings
3/17-21/2025	2981.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	345.00	Vanco Special Offerings
	<u>\$7461.00</u>	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK

Postlude: "Amazing Grace" (My Chains are Gone) reprise

Financial Giving and Gratitude

You can give online at www.fdlpresbyterian.org [Giving page](#). (Click on 'Online Giving'.) You can also give by cash or check on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community.

GETTING CONNECTED:

Office Phone

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Office Email

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Website

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Facebook

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

YouTube

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

April

Deacon of the Month:

Judy Dassow

Elder of the Month:

Laurie Christie

STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin

pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org

Jennifer Zander

jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Kris Bartelt

kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka

mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

Wednesdays, March 12- April 9



12:15-12:45pm Worship-In-person at FPC or on Zoom
12:45-1:30pm Soup/Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
(In-person only)
6:30-7:30pm In-person Gathering with Food and Study
at *Bob's on the Avenue* (689 Fond du Lac
Ave, Fond du Lac, WI)

This Week

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
11:20-12:00pm

March 30 Easter Flower Orders Due

Worship
Fellowship Time
Growing Connections-Sharing Kingdom Stories
Sunday School
Sunday Lenten Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Monday

10:00-11:30am

March 31

Staff Meeting

Wednesday

8:00-9:00am
9:30-12:00pm
11:30-12:00pm
12:15-12:45pm
12:45-1:30pm
4:00-5:00pm
4:00-6:00pm
6:30-7:30pm

April 2

Men's Breakfast
Mind Over Matter
Mid-day Lenten Choir Rehearsal
Mid-day Lenten Worship
Lenten Luncheon and Study
Handbell Rehearsal
Loaves and Fishes
Lenten Evening Worship & Study at *Bob's on the Avenue*

Thursday

6:00-8:00pm

April 3

GriefShare

Saturday

10:00-4:00pm

April 5

Train Show

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:00-2:00pm
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
11:20-12:00pm

April 6

Worship with Communion
Train Show
Fellowship Time
Growing Connections-Sermon Discussions
Sunday School
Sunday Lenten Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)