

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Second Sunday in Lent
March 16, 2025

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA>

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation 



Sermon based upon Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 and Psalm 27

Our Mission

"Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other."

The Service for the Lord's Day
Second Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* Christopher Uehlein

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor

MINUTE FOR MISSION Billy Kirby

*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

Leader: Save us, Lord.

**People: O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy;
you are generous to all who call upon you,**

Leader: Save us, Lord.

**People: O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sin.
On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions and were bruised
for our iniquities,**

Leader: Save us, Lord.

**People: O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort, our life and our
resurrection and our peace and reconciliation,**

Leader: Save us, Lord.

People: O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, and joy of all saints,

Leader: Save us, Lord.

People: Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us and grant us peace.

*OPENING HYMN *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* GTG#275
Public Domain

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor

God of mercy,

You sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFSSIONAL RESPONSE *Kyrie* PH#572

***Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Pastor

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE Pastor

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

People: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *(Gloria Patri)* GTG#580/PH#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.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Psalm 27

Liturgist
(OT pg.503)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES Pastor

CHOIR ANTHEM *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* John Leavitt
Chancel Choir

Second Reading:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Pastor
(OT pg.12)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God,

Whom Jesus called Abba Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God;

We hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry,

God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still,

God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place,

We rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

GTG#12

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Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting,
nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

GTG#471

***O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer: Come and listen to me.***

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

***The Doxology**

GTG#607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. ~Amen~**

Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist

***SENDING HYMN**

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

GTG#837

Public Domain

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain].

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

There Is A Redeemer

M. Green

POSTLUDE

Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated

Brad Knix

*Please rise in body or in spirit

Welcome to our visitors today!

We are glad you are here and we hope you will join us for worship again. If you are interested in joining our church, there are three ways you may do so. They are letter of transfer from your church of previous membership, reaffirmation of faith if you have already been baptized; and baptism and affirmation of faith if you have not been baptized. If you are interested in joining, please ask our pastor, or one of our elders, for more details.

Need help hearing the service? Receivers connected to the sound system are available in the Narthex. Just ask an usher.

Please use the friendship register located in the pew to indicate your presence in worship. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please include your address, telephone number, and e-mail.

Let the children come to me: Children & Youth of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to actively participate in worship. For those desiring supportive materials, “sermon notes” for young children through older youth are available in the narthex. Clipboards and crayons are also available to take to your pew. Please return them to the narthex after the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Pearl Minter on the passing of her son in-law, Daniel Handy. Daniel passed on Saturday, March 8th, 2025.

A Celebration of Life for Bob Chapman, former Adult Music Director at FPC, will be held Saturday, March 22nd at 2:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, 146 E. Main Street, Martinsville.



Lenten Lunches will be held on Thursdays at 12 Noon and will include a light meal and a short devotional. The schedule and locations are as follows:

March 20th – First Baptist (23 Starling Ave.); devotional by Steve Zimmerman

March 27th – Calvary Christian (515 Mulberry Road); devotional by Adam Herod

April 3rd – First Presbyterian; devotional by Andrew Tamingler from Holy Trinity Lutheran

April 10th – First Baptist East (1043 Church St.); devotional by Charles Whitfield



5th Sundays are Focus on Music. Join us **March 30th**, our first 5th Sunday of this year, for a special service featuring members of our congregation as they share their musical gifts. If you are interested in participating, please let Spencer know today.



Job Opportunity: Preschool Director. First Presbyterian Church Martinsville is seeking a dedicated Preschool Director for our program serving children ages 1-4. This part-time position requires a BA/BS degree and offers a wonderful opportunity to lead and inspire young learners in a nurturing environment. Early drop-off and late pickup options are available for our families. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest detailing your qualifications to ritaofficefpc@gmail.com. For more information, please visit our church website. Join us in making a difference in the lives of our youngest members of the community!

Handbell and Choir rehearsals are each Wednesday (unless otherwise noted on the calendar). If you are interested in joining, **handbells begin rehearsal at 5:30 PM** in the session room and the **choir meets at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. New folks are always welcome! Talk with Spencer if you have any questions.

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (juice 40-64 oz)** (Other needs: toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, toothpaste, feminine products, dish and laundry detergent) when you do your grocery shopping. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday – 9:30 – 2:00 PM

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Daniel Handy (Pearl Minter's son in-law), Anne Abercrombie, Sue Benfield, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Nancy Davis, Jerri DeVault, Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Doug Goldstein, Marvin Hudson, Jamelle Waid Linker (Ed Linker's daughter-in-law), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Betty Lou Pigg, Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Cecil Robbins, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Betty Stanley, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, C.J. Swinney (great-grandson of P. Minter), Bruce Thomas, Carl Utley, Lil Wall, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, Jodi White (sister of P. Marshall/G. Chaney), persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries. Areas and families affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton and wildfires in California.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 16

9:00 AM Sunday School
 10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary

Monday –Friday Weekday School

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM School in Session
 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Lunch Buddies

Wednesday, March 19

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room
 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

Thursday, March 20

NOON Lenten Lunch @ First Baptist (23 Starling Ave.)

Saturday, March 22

2:00 PM Bob Chapman Service at First United Methodist (146 E. Main St.)

Sunday, March 23

9:00 AM Sunday School
 10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 26

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room
 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

Thursday, March 27

NOON Lenten Lunch @ Calvary Christian (515 Mulberry Road)

Sunday, March 30 5th Sunday ~ Focus on Music

9:00 AM Sunday School
 10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, March 31

4:00 PM Session Meeting

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
March 16	Joan Montgomery	Ron Rebman, Judy King
March 23	Nancy Moore	Bill and Susan Kirby
March 30	Sharon Kirby	Monty and Joan Montgomery
April 8	Billy Kirby	Randy and Martha Rollins
April 13 – Palm Sunday	No liturgist needed	No ushers needed
April 20 - Easter	Sam Smith	Duke and Liz Ferrell
April 27	Susan Pilson	Bob Wuetefeld, Barbara Duncan

**If you cannot serve on the Sunday scheduled, please find a substitute.
 If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.**