

4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024

11:00am

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

PRELUDE "How Great Thou Art"

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Rev. Jeff Binder*

INTROIT "I Am a Christian" (2X), "I Have Christ in My Heart",  
and "I Love Him All the Time" (Congregational Sing-a-long)  
*Dr. Renee Huff*

WORDS OF PRAISE **Psalm 111:1-3** *Mary Meade*

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
**in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

Great are the works of the Lord,  
**studied by all who delight in them.**

Full of honor and majesty is God's work,  
**and God's righteousness endures forever.**

**Praise the Lord!**

\*OPENING HYMN #700 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

\*OPENING PRAYER *Mary Meade*

**You, O God, feed us with compassion, hold us up with hope, and clothe us with grace. You call us to feed others, hold others up, and clothe them with peace, joy, and love. But we worry about the food on our own plates before offering it to others. We pay more attention to our own survival than to the well-being of those around us.**

**We ensure that our own backs are covered before protecting society's most vulnerable. Help us to be messengers of humility, patience, and peace. Bind us together – with you and with one another – so that we may follow the risen Lord who feeds us and holds us up.**

\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE **Ephesians 2:8** *Mary Meade*

By grace we have been saved through faith, and this is not our own doing; it is nothing less than God's gift for God's people!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, and called.

**Alleluia!**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*Mary Meade*

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

(Please greet those around you with the peace of Christ.)

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #581 "Glory Be to the Father"**

*Dr. Renee Huff*

**SCRIPTURE READING Esther 4 (selected verses)** *Rev. Jeff Binder*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"** *(Pick-up Choir)*

**SERMON "Called to Action"** *Rev. Jeff Binder*

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #691 "Lord, When I Came Into This Life"**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*from The Theological Declaration of Barmen (1934)*

**Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.**

**As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** *Hymnal P. 35*

**CALL TO OFFERING** *Rev. Jeff Binder*

**\*DOXOLOGY #606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"**

**\*PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #177 "I Will Come to You"**

**\*BLESSING & SENDING** *Rev. Jeff Binder*

Go forth into the world to tell the good news of Jesus Christ in all you do.

**May the power of the Holy Spirit give us wisdom and courage to do the work and service that is on our hearts.**

May the Word of Christ give you the words to speak on his behalf, and may the love of God bless you now and forever more.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE

“When We All Get to Heaven”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THERE ARE 3 DAYS LEFT TO FILL OUT THE CONVERSATIONS SURVEY!**

Our *Conversations* survey is still up and running, and we've had a great response so far. We want to get as much member feedback as possible regarding the life, interests, and hopes of First Presbyterian. This survey is anonymous and quick and easy to fill out. The deadline for submissions is **this Thursday, January 31**. You can find the survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPCSTAUNTONVA>

If you would prefer a hard copy survey to be filled out, please let Heidi, Pastor Jeff, or Susie Lendermon know. Thank you!

**AN ORGANIZATIONAL MUSIC PARTY** will be held Tuesday, January 30, 6-7pm (beginning in the sanctuary). Dr. Huff is inviting anyone who can help get the music organized for the choir and handbell groups. Pizza and drinks will be provided by Dr. Huff. You can also bring something if you like. Activities will include labeling, filing old music, making copies, hole punching, and organizing music folders. Informal fun is expected! Please RSVP to Dr. Huff if you can help.

**MUSIC GROUPS BEGIN** The first day of choir rehearsals will be Tuesday, February 6 from 5:30-6:30pm, and the handbell choir will begin that same night from 7-8pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome, even if you can't read music. We make a joyful noise to the Lord and have a good time, too. Note: There will be no music rehearsals on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (when Session and other meetings occur).

*Prayer List*

Please send out prayers for: healing and comfort for Ann and Bill Ashworth; Anne (friend of Scott & Sharon Wilson); the family of Linda Riley Hickey, who passed away suddenly Tuesday morning; Paul Goble; Jim Cooke; Karen Shipsted & Angela Pumpry (friends of Robin Knott); Charlie Obaugh; Natalie Dodge; Sherry von Oeyen; Alan Obaugh; Justin Tate; Anjie Wronko

*Please contact Heidi in the church office or Pastor Jeff to have names added or removed from the prayer list.*

**Elders**

**Class of 2024**

Sam Clem, Discipleship, Congregational Life  
Mary Meade, Worship  
Barbara Richardson, Congregational Life

**Class of 2025**

Stephany Morgan, Administration, Missions & Outreach  
Bret Ritchie, Administration  
Hugh Sproul, Property

**Class of 2026**

Susie Lendermon, Missions & Outreach  
Martha Tillen, Worship

**Clerk**

Martha Tillen

**Staff**

Rev. Jeff Binder, Interim Pastor  
Dr. Renee Huff, Minister of Music  
Heidi Marsh, Office Manager

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