



# First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio  
[www.fpcmiddletown.com](http://www.fpcmiddletown.com)

March 27, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

**Prelude** *Cross Medley* arr. Dan Forrest

**Introit** *Still Small Voice* D. Christopherson  
Sanctuary Youth

**\* Call to Worship** Psalm 22:25-27

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

**my vows I will pay before those who fear him.**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

**those who seek him shall praise the LORD.**

May your hearts live forever!

**All the ends of the earth shall remember**

and all the families of the nations,

**shall turn to the Lord and offer their worship.**

**\* Hymn #39** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Faithfulness

**\* Prayer of Confession** John 18, John 19

Forgive us, merciful God, when we deny you  
and betray those who seek our welfare.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive us when we forget your story  
and deny your place in our lives.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive us when we wash our hands of responsibility  
and refuse to stand up for truth.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive us when we follow crowds that would crucify,  
when we listen to ideas that destroy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive us when we mock and scorn others,  
without listening to their cries of despair.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive us when we deny the reality of pain and death,  
when we hide in the shadows of denial.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**\* Assurance of Forgiveness**

**\* Gloria Patri**

Hymnal #581

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!

**Invitation to Sunday School**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Isaiah 53:1-9  
John 19:16b-30

**Sermon**

Michael Isaacs

**\* Hymn #228**

*Were You There*  
Verses 1-4

Were You There

**\* Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

from Iona Abbey Worship Book

Out of death came life, and God defeated evil:

an empty cross and an empty tomb,

a nail mark shown and a presence known.

Out of sorrow came joy, and God sent the Spirit:

coming like fire to all people and ages,

coming to birth in the water of life.

Out of difference came unity, and God's people were called:

called to receive Christ in bread and wine,

called to be free in the power of love.

For when the Holy Spirit comes upon us,

we will be filled with power,

and be witnesses for Christ to the ends of the earth.

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Anthem**

*With What Shall I Come*  
Sanctuary Choir

Ruth Elaine Schram

**Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer (unison)**

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.

**\* Hymn #216**

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

St. Christopher

## Charge and Benediction

Postlude

*Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley*

Joe Utterback



# *Our Life Together...*

**Leading worship today:** Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Ken Thomas, Worship Assistant; Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries/Organist; Janet Scott, Director/Pianist; Lara Moon, Director; Sanctuary Choir; Sanctuary Youth; Parker Shablak, Sound Technician.

**Sanctuary Youth:** Vivien Fields, Jessie Jenkins, Parker Shablak, Madelyn Saunders, Iasis Wilcher, Ryder Wilson

Hearing aids and large print bulletins are available for use during the worship services. Please contact an usher for assistance.

**Sensory toys** are available outside of the nursery for children who may wish to use them during worship.

## Announcements

**COVID-19 update for April:** Please review these updated COVID-19 provisions in mind as we gather for our worship and ministry:

- Masks are optional.
- Social distancing is enforced in the sanctuary by the use of alternating pews.
- Worship does not include the passing of any materials.

Beginning in June, we will no longer be using the prepackaged communion cups. We will begin alternating between communion served on trays and intinction.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room. This week we are continuing our study of the Gospel According to Luke.

**Sanctuary Youth** will rehearse Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

**Renaissance Ringers** will rehearse Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

**Sanctuary Choir** will rehearse Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

## **Easter Memorials**

In the past two years it seems that so many of our loved ones have gone to live with the Lord. Even if our loved ones have been gone longer, it gives us joy and peace to remember each in a special way. Or, it is a joy to honor someone who is very special in our lives. The Easter Memorials sponsored by the Music and Worship Ministry Team will give us the opportunity to do that this year. The proceeds from the Easter Memorials will go to ***The Women and Children's Center in Middletown***. Each memorial will cost \$10.00. The name of your loved one and the person who gave will be printed on a special page in the Easter bulletin. *The Music and Worship Ministry Team appreciate your generosity for this very worthy cause.*

Easter Memorial order forms are available in the Narthex and the Gathering Area. You may place them in the offering plate or give them to Beth Susco in the Gathering Area after worship.

## **Children's Ministry**

Sunday School (children ages 6-12) is offered most Sundays\* in the Godly Play Room. Leaders will escort children to Sunday School. When worship concludes, parents/guardians will need to come to the Godly Play Room to pick up their child(ren). (\*Note: In March, Sunday School will meet on 3/27. We especially want to include children and youth in special worship celebrations such as Communion, etc.)

**Lenten Luncheon** will be on Wednesday, March 30 at noon. The question for our speakers this year is this: "If the childhood version of yourself met you today, what part of your faith today would that child be 'taken aback' by?" We are trying to delve deeper into how our faith changes and matures as we grow. Food will not be provided at these luncheons this year. Instead, we ask everyone to bring their own brown-bag lunch. (If there is someone who would like to attend and cannot afford lunch, please let us know, and we can provide one.)

## **Easter Egg Hunt!**

Save the date for April 10 for an Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn following worship. Donations of individually wrapped candy to fill the eggs would be appreciated. The candy may be dropped off at the church office by April 3.

### **Lenten Book Study**

During the season of Lent, we will be reading the book, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, by Richard Rohr. We'll gather for a brief discussion following each Lenten Luncheon, beginning with chapters 5 and 6 on March 23. Copies are available in the main office with a suggested donation of \$10. The book is also available in 3-reader and audio forms. Contact the office for more information.

### **Sermon Series: Holy Week**

Preaching this Lent will focus on the final week of Jesus's life. Each Sunday will focus on a different day of Holy Week skipping Holy Tuesday.

- April 3 – Holy Saturday, John 19:38-42
- April 10 – Palm Sunday
- April 17 – Resurrection of the Lord

### **Maundy Thursday: *Hope in the Shadows***

Join us for worship on Maundy Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m. for a Tenebrae service titled "Hope in the Shadows". Our choir will be joining with the St. Luke Presbyterian Church Choir for this service which will include readings from the passion story and choral music.