



## First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls



Our Vision Statement of the First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls is: God's timeless love transforms each of us to joyously continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world.

March 14, 2021 ~ 10:15 am ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent

Rev. Scott Prouty

### Assemble in God's Name

**Prelude:** Elaine Hagen

**Ringing of the Church Bell** (Usher)

#### **Call to Worship**

L: In this place, the community of faith is reminded of the promise:

**P: God's love endures forever!**

L: In spite of our impatient grumbling, despite our attraction to the shadows:

**P: Christ's light shines in us!**

L: When we think our hands our empty, when we have no music in our souls:

**P: the Spirit fills us with glad songs, and creates us for good works!**

#### **Prayer of Invocation**

You reach deep into Your pockets stuffed with mercy and fill our empty souls; refusing to be in the condemnation business, You rebuild our shaky foundations with Your everlasting love; You hear our cries of loneliness and lament, and reach down to lift us into Your presence. Good and Generous God, we give You thanks! You save us by Your grace, so we may joyfully serve our sisters and brothers; You slide over to make room for us at Your Table; You step into our shadowed lives to take us by the hand and lead us into the light. Healing Word: we give You thanks! You calm our impatience, so we may tell of God's presence in our midst; You silence our grumbling to teach us joy's anthems; You shower us with kindness, so we may overflow with love. Spirit of Obedience, we give You thanks. God in Community, Holy in One, we give You thanks for Your steadfast love. Amen.

**Hymn #175**

***"Seek Ye First"***

*1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!*

*2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!*

*3 You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia!*

#### **Call to Confession**

By nature, we are impatient, irritated, grumbling, disobedient children, always demanding our way. But God, who is good and kind and gentle, comes to transform us, by grace, into the people we are meant to be. Let us open ourselves to the One who overflows with love for us, as we confess our sins to God.

#### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

The Light of the world has come, Ceaseless Creator, but we admit we love the shadows all around us. For there, we can boast of our achievements, rather than point to Your grace; there, we can grumble of our unhappiness with You, instead of singing Your praises; there, we can give into our natural anger, and not be touched by Your call to be agents of peace and hope. Forgive us, Eternal Love. Lead us from the shadows of sin into the light of Your joy; raise us up, as Your children, so we may kneel in service to others; shower us with the grace, the hope, and the peace You have brought to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**Time for Silent Prayer of Confession**

## Assurance of Pardon

L: Let the community of faith say so:

**P: God's love endures forever!**

L: Let those gathered in grace say so:

**P: God's love endures forever!**

L: Let those gathered from all parts of the world say so:

**P: God's love endures forever!**

L: This is the good news for us:

**P: God's love endures forever.**

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Response Hymn #582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

*1 Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*2 World without end, without end, Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

## Share the Peace of Christ with One Another

(Comment below to share the Peace of Christ.)

### Proclaim God's Word

## Prayer of Illumination

**Responsive Reading:** Ephesians 2:1-10

*2 In the past you were dead because you sinned and fought against God. 2 You followed the ways of this world and obeyed the devil. He rules the world, and his spirit has power over everyone who doesn't obey God. 3 Once we were also ruled by the selfish desires of our bodies and minds. We had made God angry, and we were going to be punished like everyone else. 4-5 But God was merciful! We were dead because of our sins, but God loved us so much that he made us alive with Christ, and God's wonderful kindness is what saves you. 6 God raised us from death to life with Christ Jesus, and he has given us a place beside Christ in heaven. 7 God did this so that in the future world he could show how truly good and kind he is to us because of what Christ Jesus has done. 8 You were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve.<sup>[a]</sup> This is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own. 9 It isn't something you have earned, so there is nothing you can brag about. 10 God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. That's why he sent Christ to make us what we are.*

## Hymn #634 "To God Be the Glory"

*1 To God be the glory; great things he has done! So, loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.*

**Refrain:** *Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son and give him the glory: great things he has done!*

*2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]*

## Gospel Lesson: John 3:14-21

*And the Son of Man must be lifted up, just as that metal snake was lifted up by Moses in the desert.<sup>[a]</sup> 15 Then everyone who has faith in the Son of Man will have eternal life. 16 God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. 17 God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent him to save them! 18 No one who has faith in God's Son*

*will be condemned. But everyone who doesn't have faith in him has already been condemned for not having faith in God's only Son. <sup>19</sup> The light has come into the world, and people who do evil things are judged guilty because they love the dark more than the light. <sup>20</sup> People who do evil hate the light and won't come to the light, because it clearly shows what they have done. <sup>21</sup> But everyone who lives by the truth will come to the light, because they want others to know that God is really the one doing what they do.*

## **Sermon**

**Hymn #137**

### ***"He Came Down"***

*1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.*

*2 He came down that we may have light; He came down that we may have light; He came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.*

*3 He came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.*

*4 He came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.*

## **Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
    Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
    who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
    born of the Virgin Mary,  
    suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
    was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
    and sitteth on the right hand  
    of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
    the holy catholic church;  
    the communion of saints;  
    the forgiveness of sins;  
    the resurrection of the body;  
    and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Announcements, Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

### **The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

#### **Give Thanks to God**

We are greatly thankful for your support of the church. We will not be passing the Offering plates today, but they are in the back of the sanctuary if you would like to give your tithes and offerings. For those of you watching at home you may give through our church website or mail your check to Post Office Box 444, Redwood Falls, MN.

## Offertory Prayer

As we have been gathered in this place because of the faithfulness of those who have gone before us, so we pray that the gifts we offer in these moments might be used to reach out to those in all corners of the world who need hope, who hunger for food and justice, who yearn for peace, and who long for Your graceful presence in their lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Response Hymn #647 "Give Thanks"

*1 Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.*

*2 And now let the weak say, "We are strong, let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.*

## Go in God's Name

Hymn #749

**"Come! Live in the Light!"**

*1 Come! live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God!*

**Refrain:** *We are called to act with justice. We are called to love tenderly. We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.*

*2 Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the hopeless, so all hatred and blindness will be no more! [Refrain]*

*3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love! [Refrain]*

## Benediction

Postlude: Elaine Hagen

The Ringing of the Church Bell (Usher)

## Year of Equality

Did you know? Food insecurity rates for Black and Latino American households are roughly twice that of White American households. (USDA study conducted between 2001-2016)

**Visits**-If you would like an in-person, over the phone, or zoom visit with Pastor Scott, please contact him at 627-5486.

**Imagination Library** ~ We're looking for a few good people to be our next "Imagination Angel". Will you donate, so a child in our area can receive a story book each month until they enter Kindergarten? It only takes \$30 to bless a child for one year with the gift of reading. You can mail donations to "Imagination Library-FPC", PO Box 444, RWF, MN or give online at <https://donate.imaginationlibrary.com/> (make sure to designate Redwood Area to receive your donation). This program is entirely supported by donations and will only continue with your generosity.

We thank our community partners First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls, Redwood Lions Club, Rotary Club of Redwood Falls and Ruby's Pantry. Thank you!

**The Elder of the Day** will be overseeing our policy actions on Sunday mornings as we strive to stay safe during this pandemic. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to this person.

**Today's Elder of the Day:** Sue Osborne

## Looking at the Week Ahead:

Tina will be on vacation March 10-16.

### March 17: Chimes Deadline

Today: 10:15 am, Worship  
Afternoon: Gertsema Family Packing Weekend Food Bags

Monday, March 15: Noon: Pastor Scott has Rotary

Wednesday, March 17: 11:30 am: Scott & Tina's Weekly Phone Call  
6:30 pm: Lenten Bible Study - ZOOM

Sunday, March 21: 10:15 am, Worship

Our Sunday morning service is on our local channels...

Nuvera (Channel 3), Media-Com (Channel 8): Mondays at 10 am, Wednesdays at 7 pm!

Please join us next Wednesday at 6:30 pm, for our Bible Study on Zoom. Please sign up with the church office at [churchofc@hotmail.com](mailto:churchofc@hotmail.com) so we can send you zoom instructions.

There will be **two** Good Friday services, both online and both at noon. The Redwood Area Ministerial will be doing one and the Presbyterian pastors of Redwood Falls, Windom, Foley, St. Cloud, Randall and Baxter will be doing another one. The information of how to watch these services will be sent out closer to Good Friday.

### Pray for The Following:

Pray for the unchurched and lonely.  
Pray for people living in our communities, the disenfranchised and people in other countries.  
Pray for those who are having financial or marital difficulties.  
Pray for those grieving the loss of a loved one.  
Pray for those seeking employment.  
Pray for our leaders at the city, county, state and national level and all military personnel.  
Pray for those in need of food, medicine and shelter.  
Pray for our church leaders and teachers.  
Pray for our local, national, world political leaders.

**Birthdays:** Today – Dan Kohler, Janean McKay, Courtney Siegfried,

15<sup>th</sup> – Tara Steinkraus, Fred Bloedow, TJ Juell, Fran Hauge, 16<sup>th</sup> – Ella Fuhr, Stacie Hicks, Derek VanderLinden,

18<sup>th</sup> – Diane Aakre

**Anniversaries:** 19<sup>th</sup> – Jenny & Mark Jansen

**Members of our Church Family in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living or Other Facilities:**

Millie Bunting, Jeanette Kotval, Bob & Bunny Nolting, Ardis Alexander, Dorothy Symes

**All Those Fighting Cancer:** Rick Kramer, Sharon King,

Kathy Tiffany (Glen Tiffany's wife/Donna Potter's sister-in-law), Mark Grommesch (Gerry & Deb Hess's son-in-law)

**Pray for all those fighting other diseases:** Shellie Mammen (lupus), Corrine Gertsema (multiple sclerosis),  
Tripp Meyers (epilepsy)

If you know of something/someone to add to the Prayer List, please contact the church office.