



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 21, 2021 ~ 10:15 am ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

Rev. Scott Prouty

Assemble in God's Name

Prelude: Elaine Hagen

Ringing of the Church Bell (Usher)

Call to Worship

L: And God said, "The days are surely coming, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel." The old covenant is tossed on the rubble heap of Jerusalem.

P: God making a way out of the rubble, out of the despair, out of the resignation.

L: God's new covenant will be put within people and written on their hearts.

P: We will know God by heart.

L: God will be our God.

P: We will be God's people.

L: God's ways will be transplanted in our hearts.

P: We will know by heart.

L: How to hope in the face of despair.

P: We will know by heart.

L: How to act with compassion while the world acts with violence.

P: We will know by heart.

L: How to stand up for justice while the world sits down for power.

P: We are the people of the new covenant.

L: Jesus Christ, the person of the new covenant, shows us the way.

P: And we will all know God by heart.

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be Your messengers of forgiveness and hope. Renew us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may follow Your commands and proclaim Your reign of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Hymn #767

"Together We Serve"

1 Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending God's love to the last and the least.

2 We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.

3 We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

4 Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.

Call to Confession

When we confess and repent of our sins, those things which separate us from God, we will find forgiveness.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Do not cast us away from Your presence, and do not take Your holy spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation and sustain in us a willing spirit. Amen.

Time for Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

We are the people of the new covenant. God has given us another chance. We are forgiven. We hope on. We live on, with the sure step of people who know we are God's people. Out of the rubble, there is new life. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. 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: Psalm 51:1-12

You are kind, God! Please have pity on me. You are always merciful! Please wipe away my sins. ² Wash me clean from all of my sin and guilt. ³ I know about my sins, and I cannot forget my terrible guilt. ⁴ You are really the one I have sinned against; I have disobeyed you and have done wrong. So it is right and fair for you to correct and punish me. ⁵ I have sinned and done wrong since the day I was born. ⁶ But you want complete honesty, so teach me true wisdom. ⁷ Wash me with hyssop^[a] until I am clean and whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me be happy and joyful! You crushed my bones, now let them celebrate. ⁹ Turn your eyes from my sin and cover my guilt. ¹⁰ Create pure thoughts in me and make me faithful again. ¹¹ Don't chase me away from you or take your Holy Spirit away from me. ¹² Make me as happy as you did when you saved me; make me want to obey!

Hymn #833

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

2 O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

3 O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

Scripture Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The Lord said: The time will surely come when I will make a new agreement with the people of Israel and Judah. ³² It will be different from the agreement I made with their ancestors when I led them out of Egypt. Although I was their God, they broke that agreement. ³³ Here is the new agreement that I, the Lord, will make with the people of Israel: "I will write my laws on their hearts and minds. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ "No

longer will they have to teach one another to obey me. I, the Lord, promise that all of them will obey me, ordinary people and rulers alike. I will forgive their sins and forget the evil things they have done.”

Sermon

Hymn #69

“Here I am Lord”

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

***Refrain:** Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my peoples pain. I have wept for love of them, they turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them, Whom shall I send?

[Refrain]

*3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, my hand will save finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them, Whom shall I send? **[Refrain]***

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

Thank You, Everlasting Creator. Thank You, Jesus Christ. Thank You, Holy Spirit. May these tithes and offerings reflect our gratefulness to You and this church. Help us to spread Your joy, hope and peace throughout the world. 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 #692 "Spirit, Open My Heart"

Refrain: Spirit open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

1 God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. *[Refrain]*

2 Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story. In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. *[Refrain]*

3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. *[Refrain]*

Benediction

Postlude: Elaine Hagen

The Ringing of the Church Bell (Usher)

Year of Equality

Did you know?: Reported instances of anti-Asian abuse have increased sharply? According to Stop AAPI Hate 3,800 incidences of shunning, slurs, and physical attacks against Asian Americans were reported in 2020, up from 2,600 the previous year.

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: Sonya Alexander

Easter: If you would like to share your Spring Flowers for our Easter Sunday Service, please bring them to the sanctuary the day before by 5 pm. After the Easter Service you may take them home with you. Let Pastor Scott know if you need to get into the church and do not have a key.

Looking at the Week Ahead:

Today: 10:15 am: Worship
Monday, March 22: Noon: Pastor Scott has Rotary
Wednesday, March 24: 11:30 am: Scott & Tina's Weekly Phone Call
6:30 pm: Lenten Bible Study – ZOOM
Thursday, March 25: Noon: Pastor Scott has a SEI Board Meeting
Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday: 10:15 am: Worship
Afternoon: Lauren Miller Packing Weekend Food Bags

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 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 – Beau Stough, 22nd – Jonathan Sweetman, 23rd – Hope Norgaard, 24th – Aubrie Milhausen, 25th – Simon Danielson, 27th – Brenda Becklund

Anniversaries: 22nd – Kyle & Stacie Hicks, Don & Lorri Quinn

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.