

Assemble in God's Name

Prelude: Elaine Hagen

Ring of the Church Bell/Welcome

Read Vision Statement

God's timeless love transforms each of us to joyously continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world.

Call to Worship (Psalm 51:10-12, 15)

L: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

P: Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

L: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

P: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

***Hymn #167**

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

Opening Sentences (Psalm 46:1-3)

L: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

P: Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

L: though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

P: God's love endures forever.

Moment for Children: Pastor Scott Prouty

Prayer of Illumination

Responsive Reading: Psalm 32

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon

***Hymn #165**

"The Glory of These Forty Days"

Litany of Penitence

L: Holy God, we confess to You and to one another that we have sinned, by our own fault, in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We have not loved You or our neighbors with our whole hearts.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We have failed to do justice and to love mercy and to live humbly.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We have left many things undone that would bring justice and equality to the human community.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We have despoiled the natural world that You created in beauty and rich diversity.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We continually store up possessions as earthly treasure and neglect the true treasure that You offer.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: With honesty, we confess our pride, our envy of others, our anger, our self-indulgence, our contempt for those who differ from us.

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: So, we begin a journey through the wilderness of Lent with the marks of our human brokenness upon us.

P: Accompany us on the way; forgive us as we stumble; encourage us as we learn the way of discipleship; bring us safely to the cross and the empty tomb.

L: Restore us to wholeness and embrace us in Your steadfast love.

P: Turn to us in Your mercy, O God, and redeem us. Amen.

Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

We begin the journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. The ashes placed on our foreheads convey the uncertainty and frailty of our lives. May they remind us to spend the days of Lent in prayer and fasting, in examination of our lives, in doing works of love and justice, and in grounding ourselves in the words of Scripture.

***Imposition of Ashes**

(Worshippers are invited to come forward to receive the ashes, which may be imposed with these words from Genesis 3:19: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.")

Responsive Prayer

Dear God, who calls us to journey through the wilderness, we step forward with courage, called to walk the way of Christ. May we walk in humility and courage, as did Abraham when he prepared to sacrifice his son; in honesty, as did the Samaritan woman when Jesus challenged her at the well, in fortitude, as did Jesus when confronted by the Tempter. As we experience our internal and individual repentance, may we also repent of the social brokenness that we have caused, the injustices and inequalities we have turned away from. Give us compassion for the mourning and disaster that others experience and show us how to be healers even as we ourselves are healed. And after our forty days of reflection, repentance, and mourning, when we come at dawn to the Easter Garden, may we know the true joy of Resurrection morning. Amen.

*Hymn #166

"Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

Announcements, Sharing of Joys, and Concerns
The Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Give Thanks to God

God's Tithes and Your Offering Received

Offertory: Elaine Hagen

***Responsive Hymn #606 "The Doxology"**

1 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.

***Offertory Prayer**

God of the Cross, in losing our lives, we find them in You. In sharing our money and time, we receive the blessings of Your Kingdom. Use these gifts toward Your holy work of peace, justice, and service in the world. Amen.

Anthem *"Praise Song"*

Chancel Choir

Holy Communion

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

***Benediction**

L: Begin the journey with courage and commitment, marked by your humanity.

P: And may the blessing of the One who walks the pathway with you sustain you in love.

All: In the Holy Triune name, Amen.

***Postlude:** Elaine Hagen

***Please stand in body or spirit.**

February Ushers: Head Usher: Bob Alexander, Dan Alexander, Kyle, Kayden & Canyon Hicks, Todd & Kathy Peterson

March Communion Servers: Ruling Elder Dave Danielson, Laura Kohler, Nick Brozek, Katherine Brozek, Leon King, Dan Alexander, Julie Fiala

Deacon of the Month: Shannon Sweetman

Today's Greeter: Todd & Kathy Peterson

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.



February 26, 2023, First Sunday of Lent/Ash Wednesday Service

Pastor: Rev. Scott Prouty

Ministers: The members of the congregation



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Pastor Email: scott_prouty@hotmail.com

Church Website: fpcrwf.org

Following worship today, join us in the church dining hall for a meal featuring chili. All are welcome.

Special Offering: We will have a special offering on Sunday, March 5, during worship, for Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Bible Study ~ We have two weekly Bible studies on Wednesdays. At 7 am we read and study the Old Testament (1 Samuel) and at 2 pm, the New Testament (Luke).

Weekend Food Bags ~ We are seeking donations of snacks and treats for the Weekend Food Bags! Pre-packaged items like; Ramen noodles, rice crispy bars, granola bars, small candy treats, popcorn or crackers. This is an ongoing project, so we ask that you think about this project as you are shopping throughout the year.

Imagination Library ~ Are you an "Imagination Angel"?! It only takes \$30 to bless a child for one year with the gift of reading. You can mail donations to First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 444, RWF, MN or give online at <https://donate.imaginationlibrary.com/> (make sure to designate Redwood Area to receive your donation).

Checks should be written to: First Presbyterian Church with "Imagination Library" in the memo line. Thank you!

Looking at the Weeks Ahead

Sunday, February 26:

9:00 am: Sunday School

9:15 am: Choir Practice

10:15 am: Worship

Monday, February 27:

7:00 pm: Matthew 25 Meeting in the Parlor

Wednesday, March 1:

7:00 am: New Testament Bible Study

9:00 am: Piecemakers

2:00 pm: Old Testament Bible Study

3:45 pm: Youth Club

5:45 pm: Meal

6:00 pm: Youth Faith in Action

Sunday, March 5:

9:00 am: Sunday School

9:15 am: Choir Practice

10:15 am: Worship-Special Offering

Following Worship: Packing Weekend Food Bags-Mammen

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

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

Pray for The Following

Pray for the Members of Our Church Family that have passed away: Janette Kotval; Janette passed away on February 17, her funeral was held here at the church on Saturday, February 25. Please keep Janette's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Diane Aakre: Diane passed away on Sunday, February 19. Please keep Diane's family in your thoughts and prayers.

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 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: 28th: Kelly Kohler, Penny Fuhr, Gade Morris, Danika Jansen,

March 1st: Kaden Hicks, Logan Moore, Jacob Gertsema, Sydney Gertsema, 2nd: Deidra Zaske,

3rd: Stephanie Klavetter, Denise Kaupang, Alex Tiffany

Members of our Church Family in Hospice Care: Dorothy Symes

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

Millie Bunting, Bob & Bunny Nolting, Lucille Byram

All Those Fighting Cancer: Sharon King, Ralph Revier, Julie Fiala's sister; Jill Nelson,

Mark Pankonin (Shari Fuhr's brother)

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