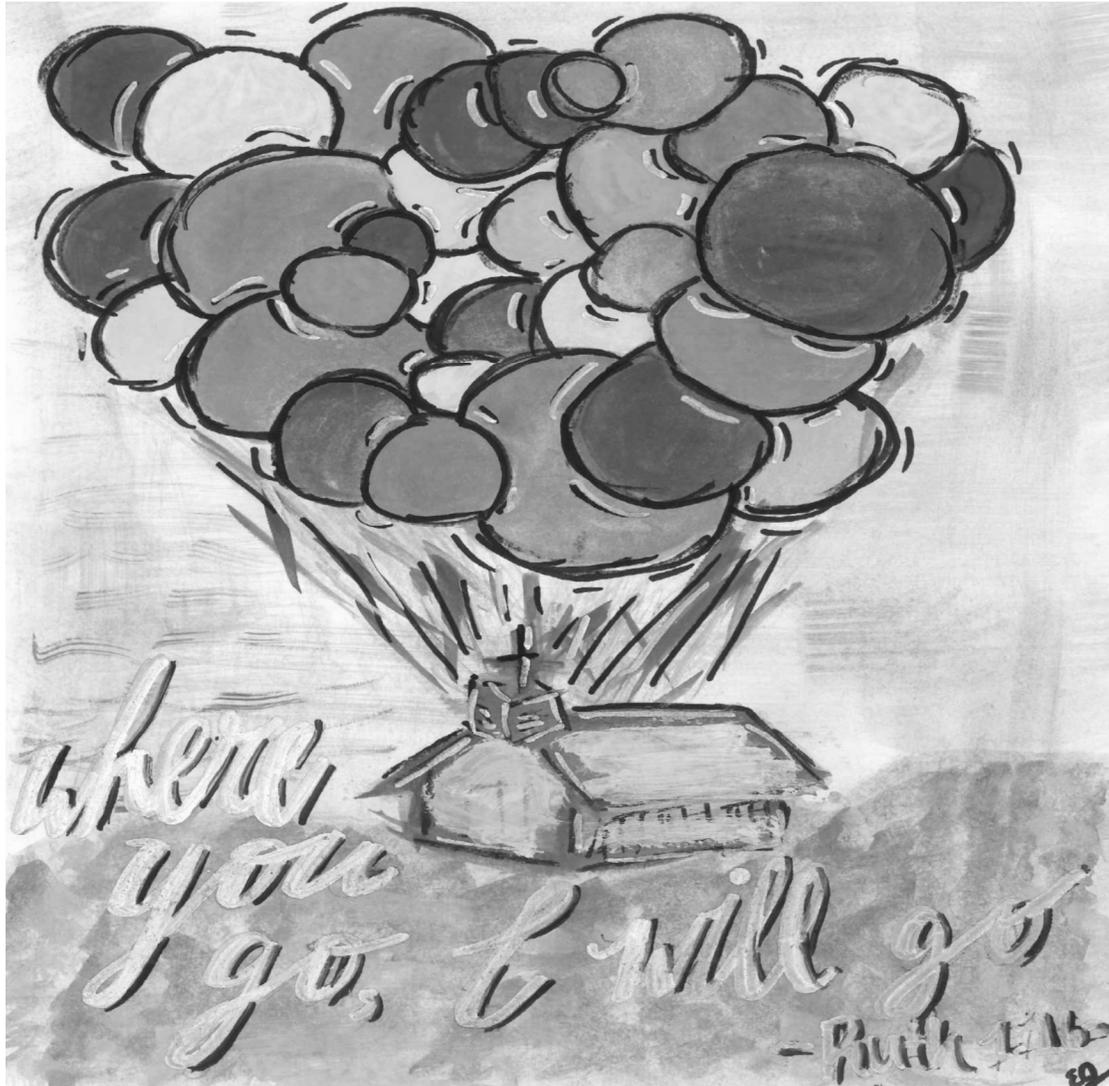


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Organized Prior to 1797



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# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 11, 2018

## WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

**As We Gather . . .** Naomi has been compared to a female Job. She lost everything: home, husband, and sons—and even more than Job did—her livelihood. She joined the ranks of Israel's lowest members: the poor and the widowed. She cried out in her grief and neglected to see the gift that God placed in her path—Ruth.

**Prelude**

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Arr. Moglebust

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

Please pass the black friendship pad found at the end of the pew, with both guests and members filling in information. Then please pass the pad back to its starting point, noting names and welcoming those near you.

**Gold Award Recognition**

Becky Wisniewski

**\*Call to Worship**

Cora Hunt

Throughout all our lives God is with us.

**Praise be to God for God's mercy and love.**

Even when we are faced with difficult decisions, God's presence is near.

**When we don't know which way to go, God will guide and lead us.**

Open your hearts today to God's gentle leading.

**We open our lives to God, that we may faithfully serve God all our days.**

**Let us worship God!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“For All the Faithful Women”

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**\*Prayer of the Day**

Emma Johnson

**\*Call to Confession**

Carly Carpenter

**\*Prayer of Confession**

God our Redeemer, you are “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”<sup>1</sup> You accompany us in moments of blessedness and in periods of brokenness. Yet at times we fail to recognize your presence and choose instead to live in self-centered reliance as though we are in isolation. In turn, we isolate the most vulnerable; we act as though crises beyond our community do not deserve our concern. Unlike Ruth and Naomi, we live up to Orpah's<sup>2</sup> namesake and turn the “back of our necks” to others. We give into the fear of uncertainty instead of the grace of solidarity. We confess that by expulsion or neglect, we push away those who seek refuge in our midst, ignoring that you are the Redeemer who offers refuge to all. Free us now from our suffocating isolation, that we may breathe anew your liberating Spirit, the source of all compassion, the strength of all justice. Now hear us as we continue to confess in the silence of our hearts...

<sup>1</sup>Psalm 46:1;

<sup>2</sup>Orpah's name means “back of the neck.” Orpah is the daughter-in-law who goes back to Moab.

**\*Time of Silent Prayer**

**\*Kyrie**

“Lord, Have Mercy”

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Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

In the midst of our darkness and ignorance,  
**The bright light of God’s love shines through, healing our anguished souls.**  
Rejoice, beloved of God, for God’s love and forgiveness are given to you this day.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*Response**

**“Holy, Holy, Holy”**

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**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes  
In the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Catherine Gamewell

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Please say “The peace of Christ be with you” to those around you, and then greet everyone, especially those whom you do not know.

**WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

**Time for Children**

Olivia Redman, Carly Carpenter, Rachel Gamewell

Children fifth grade and under are invited to the chancel steps for the Time for Children. Younger children are welcome to bring adults with them. Afterward, children five years old and under will be escorted to Children’s Church, or they may return to sit with their parents.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Alley Sasser

Everlasting God, whose tenacious love holds us:

**Make our hearts the house of your truth, and make our minds the realm of your wisdom so that our Fellowship will become your dwelling place,**  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Psalter Reading**

Psalms 146 (Pew Bible OT, p. 715)

Nancy Carol McQuaid, Liz Sasser

**Old Testament Lesson**

Ruth 1:1-22 (Pew Bible OT, p. 299)  
“The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God!**”

Catherine Gamewell

**Meditation**

“Running on Empty, Arriving on Full”

Emily Robinson

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Discipleship**

If you would like to speak with someone about becoming a Christian, about church membership, or about a special prayer need, please speak to a pastor or usher.

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

Lauren Robinson

From *A Brief Statement of Faith, The Book of Confessions*, PC(USA)

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community...We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

**\*Hymn of Response**

**"O for a World"**

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**Liturgical Dance**

**"Canticle of the Turning"**

Arr: Buddy Green

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the one who waits.  
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

**Refrain**

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears,  
For the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
These are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forbears heard is the promise that holds us bound,  
'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

**Prayers of the People, Ending With the Lord's Prayer**

Mattie Wisniewski

**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.**

**Service of Giving**

Olivia Redman

**Music at the Offering**

**"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"**

Arr. McChesney



## SUNDAY LEADERS

### Today, March 11

Bus Driver: Ken Corn  
Greeters: Mary Lou McDaniel  
Don and Julie Scott  
Nursery: Amy and Elizabeth Coley  
Visitors Table: Jane Rigsbee  
Usher Captains: Scott Coley  
Hugh Lowe

### Next Sunday, March 18

Bus Driver: Scott Davis  
Greeters: Kendrick family  
Debbie Wellmon  
Nursery: Gabby Putt  
Visitors Table: Jane Rigsbee  
Usher Captains: Dick Peck  
John Port

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Sunday, March 11

#### **Girl Scout Sunday**

#### **Daylight Savings Time Begins**

9:30 AM Christian Education Hour  
10:00 AM Chancel Choir  
10:55 AM Worship Service  
12:15 PM Children's Choir  
6:00 PM Youth Auction Prep

### Monday, March 12

10:00 AM Mind, Body, Spirit Class  
12:00 PM Spire Light Deadline

### Tuesday, March 13

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast  
9:00 AM Soup Kitchen

### Tuesday, March 13, cont.

1:30 PM Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, March 14

10:30 AM Spire Light Volunteers  
3:15 PM Backyard Bible Club  
4:40 PM Chancel Ringers  
5:15 PM Meal  
5:15 PM "Eat and Meat" Committee Night  
6:30 PM A Service of Meditation and Prayer  
7:15 PM Chancel Choir

### Thursday, March 15

6:00 PM No Session Meeting—Moved to March 22

### Wednesday Night Programs During Lent

6:30-7:15 PM: Worship With Communion in the Chapel

**March 14:** A Service of Meditation and Prayer, Bobbi White, Leader

**March 21:** A Service of Out of Chaos, Hope, Bill Neely, Leader

### Wednesday Night Meals

5:15 PM: Serving Begins for Meal in the Fellowship Hall

**March 14:** Adult Meal—Meatloaf, roasted potatoes, green beans, roll  
Kid Meal—corndog, potatoes, green beans, roll

**March 21:** Adult and Kid Meal—soup, baked potato, salad, roll

**March 28:** No Meal or Program (Holy Week)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Girl Scout Information**

Information on the Girl Scout organization is available on a table in the narthex welcome center.

### **Potluck and Youth Auction Mission**

All are invited to stay after worship on Sunday, March 18, for a Potluck and Youth Mission Auction. Please bring a dish to share that will serve at least ten friends. The youth will hold a live and silent auction. All proceeds from the auction go to the Youth Mission Fund and help support our youth as they do mission locally, regionally, and internationally. If you have an item and/or service that you would like to donate for the auction, please contact Pastor Adam today.

### **Interested in Joining This Congregation?**

On Thursday, March 22, 6:00 PM, the church Session will be receiving new members. If you are interested in becoming a church member or friend of the church, please indicate in the friendship pad or let a pastor or usher know. You will be contacted with an opportunity to ask questions and get more information.

### **Stations of the Cross**

The carvings posted on the walls of the sanctuary are for the spiritual practice of walking the *Via Dolorosa*, the Way of Suffering. You are invited to experience this individual time of meditation on Sundays following worship and Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM-5:00 PM. (On weekdays, please press entrance button for entry through the education building.) Take a **Stations of the Cross** brochure guide with you as you visit the carvings. Brochure guides are available in the narthex welcome center.

### **Community Art Project for Lent 2018**

Each week during Lent, you will have an opportunity to participate in our Community Art Project. For the first two weeks of Lent, participants were asked to write prayers of Confession, or “I’m Sorry” prayers, on caterpillar paper cutouts. For weeks three and four, participants are asked to write prayers of Supplication, or “Help Me” prayers, on chrysalises or cocoons. For the final two weeks of Lent, the congregation will be asked to write prayers of Praise, or “Thank You” prayers, on paper butterflies. The caterpillars and chrysalises will be displayed in the narthex welcome center, and the butterflies will make a special appearance in worship on Easter Sunday.

### **Group Text**

To sign up for the FPC Morganton group text, please text @fpcmor to 81010. You can unsubscribe at any time.

### **God’s Backyard Bible Club!**

God’s Backyard Bible Club has begun for the Spring semester, and we need your help! If you can volunteer for this important Wednesday afternoon children’s ministry program, please contact Robyn in the church office (828-437-1811). The theme this spring is “Kids of the Kingdom,” and children will take popular Disney stories and connect those themes to important Biblical stories. They will explore ways they can become Kingdom Workers here in their own community.

### **God’s Backyard Bible Camp Theme for 2018: *Shipwrecked!***

Save the Dates: July 23-27, 2018, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

For ages 3 ½ (toilet trained) to rising 6th graders

Volunteer Sign Ups coming soon!

## OUR CONGREGATION CARES

Congregational love and sympathy are extended to Joe and Donna McGlamery and family at the death of Joe's father, Bud McGlamery, on March 2, 2018.

### Prayer Concerns

Our Prayer Concerns list is dedicated to church members and their families and friends in need of prayer. Names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks unless a new request is made by contacting the church staff.

#### Home

Wyatt Aiken	Janice Branstrom	Mike Brown	Doug Crawford
Anne Ervin	Sadie Hanger	Shannon Hodges	Sue Jones
Elinor Lewis	Betty Stock	Buck Walters	

#### Grace Ridge Health Care

Marty Brenneman	Millie Gordon	Mildred Plaster	Eleanor Robb	Boyd Smith
Mary Tate	Sam Tate			

#### Trinity Ridge

Joan Dickison

#### Extended Family and Friends

Bob Ledford, brother of Donna Benner; Tara Reynolds, sister of Holly Smith; Betty Harris, aunt of Bill Harris

All are invited to sign the "We Care" card, located in the entrance area.

This card will be sent to an individual or family experiencing a special need or pastoral concern.

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### Prayer Requests

As a church family, it is important to remember each other in prayer during times of need.

If you have a prayer request for the church prayer chain, please contact

Rev. Wanda Neely (email: [wanda@firstpresmorganton.org](mailto:wanda@firstpresmorganton.org)) or

Rev. Adam Bowling (email: [adam@firstpresmorganton.org](mailto:adam@firstpresmorganton.org)).

If you would like to participate in the prayer chain, contact the church office.

Other options:

Add the below prayer request to the Prayer Concerns list.

I would like the church staff to pray for the below prayer request.

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Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place in offering plate or give to a staff member.