



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

16 EAST FIFTH STREET

ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA

Website: www.fpc-rr.org

Church Office: (252) 537-4018 fpcrroffice@embarqmail.com

Rev. Sandoval: (252) 676-9857 fpcrrminister@embarqmail.com

[To text Rev. Sandoval use (336) 420-0388]

Church Office Hours: Wednesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A children's nursery is available upon request. Please see an usher to assist you)

ORGAN PRELUDE

(Please use the prelude as a time to quietly prepare for worship)

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *The Lord is Near to Those Who Call Upon Him*
(p.32, #35 Black)

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

All: slow to anger and abounding in love.

One: Jesus calls us to be his disciples.

All: We take up the cross to follow him. Let us worship God.

****OPENING PRAYER**

One: Eternal God, holy and faithful, what can we give in return for our life? Teach us to take up the cross of Christ with grateful hearts and humble spirits, offering all for the sake of the gospel, so that we may receive life in fullness; through Christ, who is coming in glory.

All: Amen.

****HYMN 401**

Here in This Place

****CALL TO CONFESSION**

****PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God our Redeemer, we confess that we are people of ashes and dust.
You call us to be a blessing in the world, but we only seek our own benefit.
You call us to give our lives for others, but we only seek to save ourselves.
Forgive us, God of grace. Set our minds on divine things—the good news of the
gospel and the promise of new life in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

****KYRIE ELEISON**

Hymnal 576

****TIME FOR SILENCE** *(We ask for forgiveness for our individual faults)*

****ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

****THE PEACE**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)

****CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Hymnal 824

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest (verse 1 only)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jeff Dillard, liturgist

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 4:10-16

Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, ‘All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden sceptre to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.’ When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, ‘Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise

for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.' Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, 'Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.'

ANTHEM

Grant Us Thy Peace

Mendelssohn

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

TIME WITH YOUNG CHRISTIANS

SERMON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**HYMN 69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.

- Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.31

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Out of the ashes, up from the dust we bring our prayers to God, saying:
In your steadfast love, O Lord,

All: have mercy on us.

One: God of all mercy, we pray for the church . . . By the gift of your saving grace, strengthen our faith and inspire our witness to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. In your steadfast love, O Lord,

All: have mercy on us.

One: God of all mercy, we pray for the world . . . As you called Abraham and Sarah to be a blessing to the nations, extend your covenant of peace and plenty to all. In your steadfast love, O Lord,

All: have mercy on us.

One: God of all mercy, we pray for this community . . . Answer the cries of all who are suffering, so that the poor may eat and have their fill and the lost may find a home in you. In your steadfast love, O Lord,

All: have mercy on us.

One: God of all mercy, we pray for loved ones . . . Support and sustain those who are weak, especially the very old and very young. Give them long life to glorify your name. In your steadfast love, O Lord,

All: have mercy on us.

One: Restore in us, O God, the joy of your salvation; renew and sustain our spirits, so that we may live according to your will, as Jesus taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal p. 35

CHORAL PRAYER

Give Ear Unto Our Prayer

(p.64, #15 Black)

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

**THE DOXOLOGY

Hymnal 606

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Lord see the offerings we place before you and hear the pledges of service we make in our prayers.

All: All in the heavens and on the earth is yours, and of your own we give you.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**HYMN 819

Be Still, My Soul

**CHARGE

**BLESSING

One: One: May the steadfast love of God, the abundant grace of Jesus Christ, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.

All: Amen.

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HYMN 166 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* (verse 1 only)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE

WELCOME !

If this is your first time at First Presbyterian Church, we thank you for choosing to spend some time with us in worship.

If you have questions about us, or what we believe, you can talk to Rev. Sandoval after the service.

If you are just curious about us, we encourage you to take a welcome brochure with you. You can also check us out on the web at: www.fpc-rr.org.

If you feel that you have found a church home here and would like to join, that is wonderful! You can transfer your membership from another church or simply profess your faith in Jesus Christ. Talk to Reverend Sandoval after the service to make arrangements for joining.

In any event, be sure to fill out the friendship pad and include your email address. We'd love the opportunity to keep you informed about the wonderful things we are doing here at FPC.

THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Class of 2018

Shane Arthur
Faye Brown
Nancy Sandoval

Class of 2019

Jeff Dillard
Denise Hackenburg
Brian Harris
John Shives

Class of 2020

Jimmy Bryant
Nancy Crowe
Mary Shelby
Wally Spragins

WORLD MISSIONS

Our church supports the missionary work of Larry and Inge Sthresley in the Congo, and the Rev. Donald Marsden, Frontier Fellowship.

OTHER SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Sunday School meets at 9:45 am for adults.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The morning CIRCLE meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:45 am, and an evening CIRCLE meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. Locations are announced in the bulletin or you may call the church office for further information. Pet Spears and Nancy Crowe are the Moderators of the Presbyterian Women.

PRESCHOOL

Our Preschool Program for two-year-olds meet Wednesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 am.

Three-year-olds meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-11:00 am or 12:00-2:30 pm.

Twos and Threes are taught by Leesa Daughtry and Shannon Knight.

Four year old classes will be held in the morning on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and taught by Susan Gaylor and Becky Faison. Class is 8:30-11:30 am.

Contact the church office for further information.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

Jim Allen and Jimmy Bryant are the Co-President's of the Presbyterian Men.

Sunday morning breakfast meetings are held periodically.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Pioneers – 3rd grade up to Middleschoolers

Senior Youth – Middleschoolers & Highschoolers

Contact the church office for more information.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Joe Sandoval, Pastor

Tammy Spragins, Administrative Assistant

Denise Hackenburg, Choir Director

Charles Harris, Organist

Nancy Sandoval, Choral Accompanist