

4th Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025



First Presbyterian Church
220 North Cullen Street - Rensselaer, Indiana 47978
219-866-7005

Rev. Dr. Michelle J. Bartel, Preaching
Rick Comingore, Liturgist
Stephanie Davisson, Accompanist

Welcome
to
First Presbyterian Church
219-866-7005

www.firstpresrensselaer.org

www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-Rensselaer

Church Mission Statement: We are a Presbyterian church responding to new mission frontiers presented by our changing culture. Guided by our Lord Jesus Christ, we love, serve and embrace all people.

Sunday Offering: \$785.00

Attendance: 15

Pastor:

Rev. Michelle J. Bartel, Ph.D.

Youth Minister:

Stephanie Davisson

Director of Music:

Stephanie Davisson

Office Administrator:

Bethany Dodge

219-866-7005

Maintenance/Housekeeping:

Pat McKinney

Technology Assistant:

Andrew Dodge

Prayer concerns: Jennifer Perez, Margaret Miller, Larry Alexander, Family of Joyce Cady, Carol Geisel, Kelly Dragoo, Dawn Jefferson, Rob Jefferson, Trent Jefferson, Kristian Jefferson, Joy Mendenhall, Family of David Courtright, Sharon DeWees, Tony's mother, Family of Richard and Wendy White, Ron Sheffler and family, family of Phil Nagel, Ed & Barb Michael, the family of Larry Huhn, Carol Hoover, and the family of Bill Gehring.

If you would like a child's folder or a wireless hearing assistance device, let the usher know.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,

for ever. Amen.

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✠ Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Welcome

Rev. Michelle Bartel

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 32):

Rick Comingore

Leader: In times of trouble, in days of fear,

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Leader: When we are lost and lonely, not sure of our place,

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Leader: When we are hard-hearted and cynical,

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Leader: When we struggle to believe God's promise of redemption,

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Leader: Together we look to God to teach us the way we should go.

People: Steadfast love surrounds us, as together we place our trust in God.

Come, let us worship the Lord!

✠ Hymn of Praise #37 *Let All Things Now Living*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

O Lord, have mercy upon us and grant that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: Psalm 32 says: "Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are those happy people whose sins have been forgiven. Believe in the good news of the gospel and rejoice!

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia, Amen.

✠ Response #581 *Gloria Patri*

Announcements

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Psalm Reading Psalm 32 p. 506 OT

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

New Testament Reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 p. 181 NT

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 p. 78 NT

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Celebrate and Be Glad

"It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.' "

Hymn of the Word #418 *Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling*

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (we use "debts and debtors" in the prayer)

The Offering

(The Offering plates will not be passed. You may place your offerings in the plates on the pedestals either before or after Worship.)

✠ Doxology #607 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

✠ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord of all, we give you thanks for your unfailing love. All that we have and all that we are is a gift from you, and we return it to you now with thanks and praise. Take and bless what we offer here today, that it may be used to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, liberate the oppressed, care for the suffering, and share the good news of your redeeming love with the world. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

✠ Hymn of Sending #774 *There is Now a New Creation*

✠ Benediction

Congregational Response #765 *May the God of Hope Go with Us*

Postlude

-Call to Worship (slightly adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), Assurance of Pardon (slightly adapted), Prayer for Illumination, and Prayer of Thanksgiving written by Ellen Williams Hensle for *The Presbyterian Outlook*

Lenten Lunches

11:45am-12:45pm on the following Wednesdays:

April 2 at St. Luke Evangelical Church

April 9 at Trinity United Methodist Church



Easter Lilies

If you would like to purchase an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one, please email Bethany at churchoffice@firstpresrenewselaer.org or call her at the church office at 219-866-7005. The Easter lilies will arrive at the church by the end of office hours on Thursday, April 17th.



