



Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship of Almighty God

First Presbyterian Church of Warren, Ohio

March 15, 2026 **Those who are able, please stand.* **10:00 A.M. Worship**

WELCOME! First Presbyterian Church Warren is a worshipping, welcoming community of faith. We are called by God to be ambassadors of Christ to all people through preaching the Gospel, teaching discipleship, and serving in the name of Christ Jesus.

Lent is a holy season of 40 days plus 6 Sundays, a time for reflection, prayer, and devotion to service. May your worship experience here on this day inspire your worship of Almighty God and draw you into deeper and more fruitful discipleship. It is good to have you at FPC Warren for this time of worship, inspiration, and friendship.

Everyone: Please note your presence and provide contact information and any requests in the "Ritual of Friendship" booklet. Then return it to the first person in your row.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER TO WORSHIP

WORSHIP BEGINS WITH MEDITATION AND EXPECTATION Pastor Greg

PRELUDE "Wandering the Night" Nevue

PICK A SCRIPTURE TO PONDER AS WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5:44

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if thirsty, give something to drink." Luke 6:27

"...Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you." Romans 12:19

"You, Lord, prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies..." Psalm 23:5

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please remain seated.)* *based upon Romans 5*

Leader: The Christian life is an invitation to repentance and gratitude.

All: For while we were still weak, at the right time Jesus Christ died for the ungodly.

Leader: We were reconciled to God through the death of His Son.

**All: Much more surely, having been reconciled to God,
we shall be saved by the resurrection life of Jesus.**

Leader: So let us lay our lives before the throne of God this day.

All: We seek the Lord in gratitude, as we come to worship the Lord.

***OPENING HYMN** “Great God of Every Blessing” No. 694

***CALL TO CONFESSION** *(Worship Leader)*

***PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND LAMENT** *(In Unison, then Silently)*

**Loving God, help us when we have run away, when we have turned
our backs on love, when we have sought immediate satisfaction and
not long-term healing. Loving God, help us.**

**Merciful God, forgive us when we have been selfish, when we have
been mean, when we choose to maintain grudges, when we have
closed our ears to the cries of others. Merciful God, forgive us.**

**Powerful God, heal us when we are so broken we cannot move, when
we don't know how to stem the bleeding of our spiritual wounds,
when we are too ashamed to seek civility. Powerful God, heal us.**

**Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope to accept Your grace
and our restoration, because of Jesus Christ....**

by Beth Merrill Neel

(A quiet moment for silent individual prayers)

***PRAYER IN SONG** “Shepherd Me, O God” Chorus No. 473

(The choir leads us the first time; everyone joins as this repeats a second time.)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(Worship Leader and In Unison)*

Leader: Friends, put your trust in the good news of the Gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are fully forgiven!

***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER** No. 581

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

WE SEEK GOD'S ILLUMINATION *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, as Your Divine Word calls us together, give us humble, teachable, obedient hearts. Show us exactly how to receive what You have revealed and how to do what You have commanded. Amen.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 5: 21-26

ANTHEM

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

Carter

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

I John 4 (selected verses)

SUNDAY MESSAGE

“Lent: Giving Up Our Enemies”

Rev. Greg Gillispie

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***PROFESSING THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH** *from A Brief Statement of Faith (1991)*

We trust in God, Whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

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.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,

we violate the image of God in others and ourselves.

We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,

and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,

suffering the depths of human pain and giving His life for the sins of the

world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating His sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***HYMN**

“Though I May Speak”

No. 693

PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, page 35

INVITATIONS AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

WE MAKE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "4 AM by Candlelight" Nevue

***DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" No. 606

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND DISCIPLESHIP**

As we dedicate our dollars and our decisions to You, Lord, we rededicate ourselves to be sacrificial recipients of Your grace.

"We must not give way to mourning our sadness; we must rejoice greatly instead over all our blessings. When we suffer anything for Christ's sake, we do so not only with courage, but even with joy.

If we have to go hungry, let us be glad as if we were at a banquet.

If we are insulted, let us be elated as though we had been showered with praises. If we lose all we possess, let us consider ourselves the gainers.

If we provide for the poor, let us regard ourselves as the recipients. Anyone who does not give in gratitude will find it difficult to give at all. So when we wish to distribute alms, we do not think only of what we give away; we think rather of what gain, for our gain will exceed our loss," thanks to Jesus Christ, the Lord of our lives. Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE GO FORTH TO WORSHIP AND SERVE

***SPIRITUAL SONG** "Lord, Make Us More Holy" No. 313

***A CHALLENGE AND THE BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** "Amen"

***WE SHARE A SIGN OF JESUS' PEACE**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you

All: And also with you.

If you are comfortable doing so, please exchange this blessing with some people around you.

***POSTLUDE** "Chasing Shadows" Nevue

RADIO MINISTRY is funded by **Ray and JoAnn Rubrake**. Our service is broadcast at 10:00 a.m. Sundays on 1570 AM and 97.7 FM and talk 977.com. Donations for the Radio Ministry may be placed in the offering plate; contributions may also be mailed to the Church Office with “Radio Ministry” in the memo of the check.

THE DEACONS would like to thank all who remember the Deacons’ Cupboard while shopping. They are requesting **shampoo, toilet tissue, and bar soap** for the month of **March**. You may leave your items in the Deacons’ box in Fellowship Hall.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: The next Lenten study will be on **Friday, March 20**. We will enjoy a baked potato bar dinner and fellowship at 6:00 p.m. followed by a video and discussion. The studies are self-contained, so you can pick the evenings that fit your schedule. Join us! Sign up in Fellowship Hall and mark your calendars!

LENTEN PRAYER STATIONS: The stations are based on the Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting, and Giving. Take time to look at these practices in a new light. They are available now through Easter.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE is a mission that provides beds for children who are without. The Deacons and the Lenten Committee have decided to make this our mission for Lent. We are accepting monetary donations or twin-size sheets, comforters, blankets and pillows. Please place your donations on the table in the Sanctuary or in the Church Office.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: There will be a special service on **Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m.** to commemorate the Lord’s Supper with communion by intinction. We will have a dinner at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall so we know how many to plan for.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 29, 10:00 a.m. – Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 3, 12:00 p.m. – Good Friday Vigil

Friday, April 3, 2:00 p.m. – Good Friday Service

PASTOR:

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY:

WORSHIP LEADER:

RADIO, LIGHTS AND SOUND SYSTEM:

VIDEO PROJECTION:

Rev. Greg Gillispie

Melanie A. Vlad

Marissa Welke

Mary Kilpatrick

Julie Trowbridge

Bob Stahl

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Sun, March 15	- Fourth Sunday in Lent - Choir Rehearsal 8:30 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday School, B 10:15 am - Deacons' Meeting, B 11:15 am - Bell Choir 11:15 am
Mon, March 16	- OA, P 10:00 am - Girl Scouts, B..... 5:30 pm - AA, MC 7:00 pm
Tues, March 17	- Al-Anon, MC 9:30 am - Free Lunch and Grocery Distribution, FH 10:30 am - Finance Meeting, P 5:00 pm - Girl Scouts, FH 5:00 pm - Girl Scouts, B..... 5:30 pm - NA, MC 7:00 pm
Wed, March 18	- Crossroads Bereavement Group, P 1:00 pm - Relay for Life, FH..... 5:30 pm - Youth Brainstorming 5:30 pm - AA, MC 6:30 pm
Thurs, March 19	- Dessert and Dialogue, P 12:00 pm - Worship Meeting 7:00 pm
Fri, March 20	- SPIRE Deadline - Church Office Closed - Lent Bible Study, FH 6:00 pm
Sat, March 21	- AA, MC 11:00 am
Sun, Mar. 22	- Fifth Sunday in Lent - Choir Rehearsal 8:30 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday School, B 10:15 am - Nominating Committee, P 11:05 am - Bell Choir 11:15 am