

**March 30, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**PRELUDE** "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" arr. Nielson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL HUNGER OFFERING**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven.

Ps. 32:1

**Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

+ **HYMN: GTG #804** "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!" MARION

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God,  
we confess that we have strayed from your ways.  
Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance.  
You gave us the earth for our home,  
but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty.  
You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions.  
You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing,  
but we break your law and forsake your love.  
Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance.  
Draw our wandering hearts back to you  
that we may find freedom in obedience to your love.  
Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

... In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN: GTG #821** HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING  
"My Life Flows On"

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

... let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

arr. Strohman & Schaum

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

+ **RESPONSE: GTG #606** OLD HUNDREDTH  
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

+ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

+ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Confession of 1967*  
(United States)

**11. The same Jesus Christ is the judge of all people. His judgment discloses the ultimate seriousness of life and gives promise of God's final victory over the power of sin and death. To receive life from the risen Lord is to have life eternal; to refuse life from him is to choose the death which is separation from God. All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear, for the judge is their redeemer.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Joshua 5:9-12 O.T. page 154  
*Israel eats bread and grain*

**PSALM**

Psalm 32  
*Mercy embraces us*

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you  
in time of trouble;**

**when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will not stay near you."

**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 N.T. page 139  
*The mystery and ministry of reconciliation*

**GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 N.T. page 59  
*The parable of the forgiving father*

**RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE**

*Matt. 4:4*

We live not by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

"The Ninety and Nine" Courtney

**SERMON**

"Longing for Home" Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

+ **HYMN: GTG #803** "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" RESIGNATION

+ **CHARGE**

Go forth as ambassadors for Christ,  
in whom we have new life. 2 Cor. 5:20  
**Amen.**

+ **BLESSING**

The God of reconciliation bless you,  
the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you  
this day and forevermore. 2 Cor. 5:19  
**Alleluia!**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION** "Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet" arr. Sharber

**POSTLUDE**

"Serenity" Cumbie

*You are invited to join us  
for fellowship and refreshments  
after worship in the Memorial Room.  
It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.*

**SERVING US TODAY**

**Liturgist:** Jane Hamelink

**Greeters:** Ron Dlouhy and Nancy Sue MacDonald  
**Next Week's Greeters:** Ginnie Gibson and Sally Hughes

**Sound:** Marty Subject

**Livestream:** Tami Chapman

**Security:** Tim Hammond

**Today's flowers are given by**

Barb VanDyke

in memory of loved ones

**CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE**

**#24: James, Son of Zebedee:**

Herod Agrippa I (grandson of Herod the Great) launches a persecution against Christians. The apostle James is executed. (Acts 12:1-2) (c. AD 44)

**THE STUDY CATECHISM**

**Question 50. Is Christianity the only true religion?**

Religion is a complex matter. When used as a means to promote self-justification, war-mongering or prejudice, it is a form of sin. Too often all religions — and not least Christianity — have been twisted in this way. Nevertheless, by grace, despite all disobedience, Christianity offers the truth of the gospel. Although other religions may enshrine various truths, no other can or does affirm the name of Jesus Christ as the hope of the world.

**CREDITS**

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**Mason First Presbyterian Church**

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Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**MINISTERS**

All Members

**STAFF**

**Pastor:** Rev. Bill Pinches

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Charlie Herrick

**Spiritual Growth Director:** Lori Filka

**Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director:** Deb Melse

**Office Manager:** Jessica Tessman

**Financial Secretary:** Jess Weber

**Choral Music Accompanist:** Le Ji

**Sexton:** Eric VanDyke

**Office Assistant:** Nancy Sue MacDonald

**Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator:** Michelle Mackey

**Child Care:** Jill Castle, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew, Violet Mackey, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons, Keren Tayong

**ELDERS**

**Class of 2025:** Doreen Chapman, Mary Garland Jackson, Greg Lang, Monte Shuck (*Recording Clerk*).

**Class of 2026:** Bruce Archer (*Clerk*), Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

**Class of 2027:** Travis Archer, Dan Baker, Evelyn Tayong, Steve Sowles

**DEACONS**

**Class of 2025:** Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Tom Seely (*Moderator*).

**Class of 2026:** Ron Dlouhy (*Treasurer*), Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald (*Secretary*), Laurie McGonigal

**Class of 2027:** Donna Archer, Rick Cote, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielsen

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

<b>Today</b>	Adult Sunday School (Brené Brown)	11:30 am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:15 am
	Prayer Fellowship	12:00 pm
	Wonderful Wednesday (K-12)	4:00—6:00 pm
	Mason Community Services	5:30 pm
	Wednesday Night Dinner	6:00 pm
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Choir Rehearsal	7:10 pm
	Administration Committee	7:00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	Board of Deacons	7:00 pm
	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	
<b>Saturday</b>	Yarners	10:00 am

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Apr. 2: Shirley Herrick

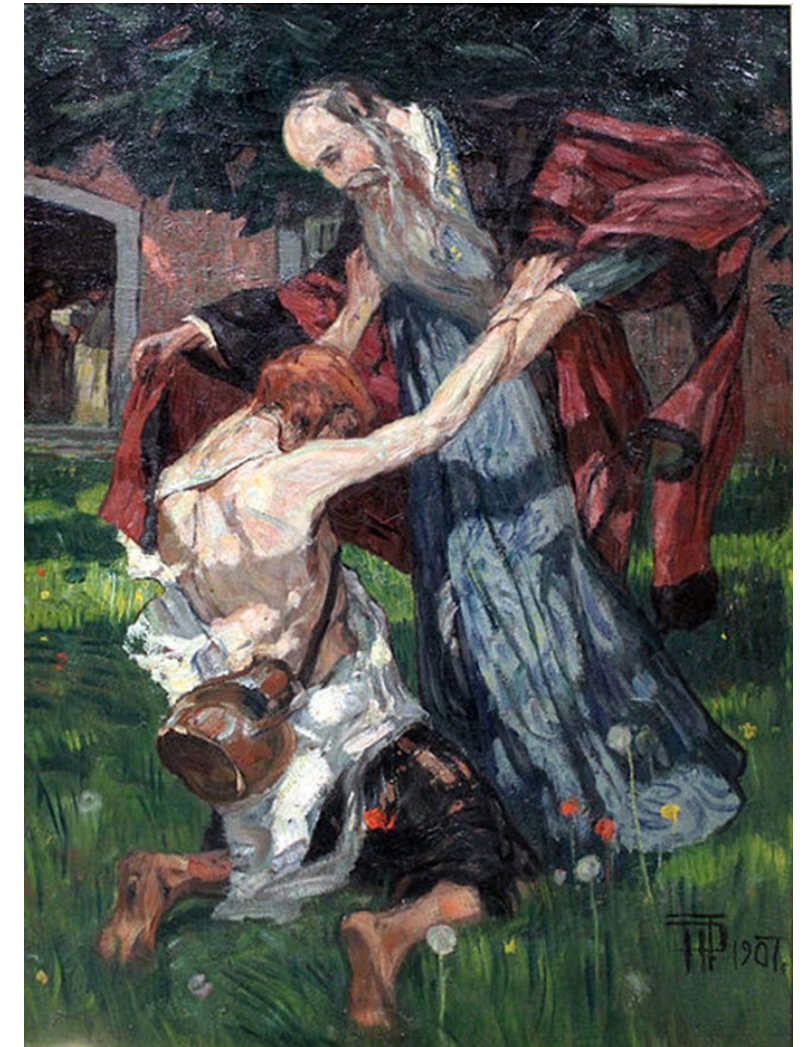
Apr. 3: Tonya Seely

Apr. 2: Ted Welch

Apr. 7: Rachael Greene

**Mason  
First Presbyterian Church**

**March 30, 2025  
Fourth Sunday in Lent**



*Return of the Prodigal Son*  
by Hans Peter Feddersen, 1907

*"You will know the truth and the truth will make you free."  
(John 8:32)*