

# First Presbyterian Church

March 3, 2024

## *Welcome*

Sermon:

**“A Tale of Two Cities”**

*Rev. Gregory Han*



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## Communion Sunday

## 8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

### Preparation

Prelude

### Adoration

Call to Worship

\*Hymn #447

Lead On, O King Eternal

1. Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;  
Henceforth in fields of conquest Thy tents shall be our home:  
Through days of preparation Thy grace has made us strong,  
And now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.
2. **Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,**  
And holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;  
**For not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;**  
With deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.
3. Lead on, O King eternal: We follow, not with fears,  
**For gladness breaks like morning where'er Thy face appears;**  
Thy cross is lifted over us; we journey in its light:  
The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

### Confession

\*Call to Confession

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture tells us that no one who believes in God will be put to shame.

**God's love is sure, able to withstand any test.**

We need no longer live according to the temptations that play on our worst shame or fears.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

\*Gloria Patri

Welcome and Announcements

## Proclamation

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13: 31-35

Sermon

**“A Tale of Two Cities”**  
*Rev. Gregory Han*

## Dedication

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn #274

O God of Earth and Space

1. O God of earth and space, Of sea and fire and air,  
Your providence surrounds us here And everywhere.  
In fruit and grain and tree, In shelter from the cold,  
In cooling breezes, flowing wells, Now as of old.
3. Wherever freedom reigns, Where sin is overthrown,  
Where justice fused with mercy rules, There You are known.  
Give us the courage clear To make the earth a home  
**For all to live in harmony In Christ’s shalom.**
4. Your word commands response And summons us to life.  
We follow, strengthened by Your grace, In calm or strife.  
Our ever-present help, Our challenge and our prod,  
**We praise You now and to life’s end, Eternal God.**

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

\*Please stand if able.



## *Visitors, Welcome to FPC*

First Presbyterian Church of Conroe welcomes you. If you are interested in learning more about our church, or wish to become active in our ministry teams and activities, please visit our website at [fpcConroe.org](http://fpcConroe.org). There you can fill out the visitor form online, or you can do so now, on page 17 of this bulletin. We appreciate you joining us for services today, whether online or in person.

## *Copyright Information*

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†

**"O God of Earth and Space" Text:** © 1980 Jane Parker Huber;  
from *A Singing Faith*. Used by permission.

**"You Are Mine" by:** David Haas, **arranged by:** Mark Hayes

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## 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

### Preparation

Opening Music

### Adoration

Introit

*Listen to My Words, O Lord*

*Folts*

Call to Worship

One: Day after day, an abundance of God's love,

All: Morning by morning, new signs of blessing:

One: A gentle rain, an awesome sunset,

All: A friend's embrace, a child's smile,

One: A new insight, a sense of peace,

All: A shared meal, a treasured moment.

One: All around us and deep within us are signs of God's presence.

All: How can we not sing of God's faithfulness?

\*Hymn #447

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Through days of preparation Thy grace has made us strong,  
And now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

2. **Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,**  
And holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;  
**For not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;**  
With deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

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**For gladness breaks like morning where'er Thy face appears;**  
Thy cross is lifted over us; we journey in its light:  
The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

## Confession

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

Shining, surprising, grace-full God, for avoiding the searchlight of your desire for us and running away from your love:

Forgive us;

For preferring the safe, familiar and certain to the risky, unknown and mysterious:

Forgive us;

For failing to believe in the vulnerability of power and the power of vulnerability:

Forgive us;

For insisting on sameness and conformity, for fearing those different from ourselves;

Forgive us;

For not noticing your presence in darkness as in light, in body as in spirit, in feeling as in intellect, in pain as in healing, in Good Friday as in Easter Day:

Forgive us;

Set us free, we pray, to be the people you have called us to be, and to live our lives graciously and without fear.

### \*Silent Prayer of Confession

### \*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture tells us that no one who believes in God will be put to shame.

**God's love is sure, able to withstand any test.**

We need no longer live according to the temptations that play on our worst shame or fears.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

### \*Gloria Patri

### Welcome and Announcements

### Minute for Mission

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Sing to the Lord on High*

*Haydn/Forsythe*

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication **and the Lord's Prayer**

\*Choral Response

### Proclamation

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13: 31-35

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**"A Tale of Two Cities"**

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### Dedication

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Prayers of the People

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn #274

O God of Earth and Space

1. O God of earth and space, Of sea and fire and air,  
Your providence surrounds us here And everywhere.  
In fruit and grain and tree, In shelter from the cold,  
In cooling breezes, flowing wells, Now as of old.
3. Wherever freedom reigns, Where sin is overthrown,  
Where justice fused with mercy rules, There You are known.  
Give us the courage clear To make the earth a home  
**For all to live in harmony In Christ's shalom.**
4. Your word commands response And summons us to life.  
We follow, strengthened by Your grace, In calm or strife.  
Our ever-present help, Our challenge and our prod,  
**We praise You now and to life's end, Eternal God.**

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Closing Response

You Are Mine

I will come to you in the silence,  
I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice,  
I claim you as my choice,  
be still and know I am here.

Refrain:

Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me,  
I will bring you home;  
I love you and you are mine.

\*Postlude

\*Please stand if able.



## ***This Week's Scripture Readings***

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### Philippians 3:17-4:1

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

### Luke 13: 31-35

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is **impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.**' <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

# *Notes*



### *Communion by Intinction*

The First Presbyterian Church, Conroe, will resume Communion by intinction on March 3, 2024, during the 11:00 A.M. worship service. For those unfamiliar with this practice, communion by intinction is accomplished by taking the wafer, dipping it in the communion chalice, and immediately taking it. Please direct any questions to Dena Sowden, Director of Christian Education.



### *Easter Lily Order/Dedication Form*

As is our usual practice, we will have lilies for the Easter Sunday services, along with dedications in celebration, honor or memory of loved ones. Forms for dedications are located on page 19 of this bulletin (or you can pick one up at the Welcome Desk). Simply complete the form and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office, with your payment of \$15 per lily. The deadline for lily orders is March 21.

## *Annual Meeting of the Congregation March 17*

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the **11:00 worship service. There we will learn of the church's projected budget, as well as going over highlights of the many committees at FPC. Annual Reports will be provided at that time.**

## *13<sup>th</sup> Annual Sew-a-Thon*

The Mission Sewing Circle would like to thank all who worked to make the 2024 Sew-a-thon a success. It really is a team effort and takes many hands to make it happen. We would especially like to thank Shirley Dukes and her cooking team for preparing the delicious lunch.

Now for the figures: 107 participated by sewing, tying quilts, ironing, cooking and in various other ways. There were men who ironed, tied quilts, worked in the kitchen, lifted sewing machines out of trunks to deliver them to sewing tables and hooked up electrical cords and power strips. Their help was greatly appreciated. Ten quilts were tied and 28 quilt tops were sewn to various stages of construction. The Mission Sewing Circle will spend the next few months completing them. Thirty completed quilts were given to Bags of Love following the Sew-a-thon and \$1,177 was raised by the Silent Auction items. Cherry Perciful did a great job of keeping records of the money and Sylvia Bivens, a friend of the sewing group, tended the store. The store raised \$210. The Quilt Raffle raised \$1,015 and was won by Penny Bell. Proceeds from the Raffle went to the Forever Fund. Thank you to all who participated.

Thank you for making the 2024 Sew-a-Thon a success. We feel blessed that we can sew together to help the children of Montgomery Country. Mark your calendars for the 2025 Sew-a-Thon. It is always held the last Saturday of February. Hope to see you in 2025.

- Liz and Linda



## Ministry Leaders

Administration	Cheryl Nichols (2025, Chair)
Building & Grounds	Bill Harshbarger (2026, Chair)
Care-Prayer	Bob Shepherd (2024, Chair)
Discipleship	Mark Sowden (2024, Chair) Dena Sowden (2024) Alex Williams (2024) Masen Stuntz (2025)
Fellowship	TBD
Membership	Steve Scheffler (2025)
Missions	Bobby Ezell (2024, Chair) Catherine Scheffler (2025)
PDS	Sharon Walker (2025, Chair)
Worship	Randy Blanton and Mike Wisda (2026, Co-chairs)

*For Pastoral Care, Contact Rev. Callie Candee*

**Greetings from Reverend Callie Candee!** I'm so grateful to have been asked to assist with pastoral care duties here at First Presbyterian Church-Conroe. I'll be available for phone and home visits. I'm carrying the church's emergency phone and can be contacted directly at (936) 290-4535.



## Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>March 3</i></p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Fellowship (Bistro)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Praise band (Gym)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd <b>(Rm. 105): "The Book of Habakkuk - A Very Different Prophet."</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class with Cara Wood <b>(Rm. 204) "Knowing the Bible – A Study of Romans", by Jared Wilson</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206)</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Rm. 207)</b> <b>"Micah: Social Injustice and the Covenant Community"</b></p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)</p> <p>10:40 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live <a href="http://www.com/fpcConroe">www.com/fpcConroe</a> or <a href="http://YouTube.com/fpcConroe">YouTube.com/fpcConroe</a>)</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Volunteer Rally Day (FLC)</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Committee Meetings</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>March 4</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Tuesday</i> <i>March 5</i></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>March 6</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Bible Study with Gordon Juhl: <i>Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life</i> (Rm. 206)</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary)</p> <p>7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>

<p><i>Sunday March 10</i></p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Fellowship (Bistro)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Praise band (Gym)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd <b>(Rm. 105): "The Book of Habakkuk - A Very Different Prophet."</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class with Cara Wood (Rm. 204) <b>"Knowing the Bible – A Study of Romans", by Jared Wilson</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206)</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Rm. 207)</b> <b>"Micah: Social Injustice and the Covenant Community"</b></p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)</p> <p>10:40 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live <a href="http://www.com/fpcConroe">www.com/fpcConroe</a> or <a href="http://YouTube.com/fpcConroe">YouTube.com/fpcConroe</a>)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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## Save the Date

March 11-15	PDS & CISD Spring Break
March 17	Annual Meeting
March 24	Palm Sunday
March 25-28	PDS Book Fair
March 28	Maundy Thursday Service
March 29	CISD Holiday (Good Friday)
March 29	Youth Lock-in at FPC
March 31	Easter Sunday Services/ Easter Egg Hunt

## Prayer List

Members: The family of Warren Taylor, Karen Hethershaw, Jo Miller, Reed Watson, John Lancaster, Nedra Murphy, Kari Elliott, Tildon Hebert, David Green, Ron Bailey, Joanne Deaver, Alice Helms, Polly Miller, Jean Ball, Roy Kessler, Mary Hudson, Flem Keathley, Paul Ivson, Don Myer, Virginia Tamborello, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: Rev. Callie Candee and family, family of Dorothy P. (Lucas), Marie J. (Das), Tom J. & family, Bill M. (Browder), Lee family (Corbit), Byer family and Tony N. (Spinks), Gloria L. and Merri H. (Amoneno), Buddy H. (Hayter), Amanda N. (Bosse), Brenda H. (Cannon), Scott P. (Peterson), Mary T. (Nichols), Linda S., Larry B., Janie M. (Harrison), Genevieve W. (Morton), Lindsey W. (Walker), Karl W. (Watt), Lisa J. (Miller), Shannon L. (Diamond), Rick J., Sydney H. and Martha K. (Juhl), Michael R. (Dwyer), Harry S., Jr. and family (Havens), Joy D. (Rose), Steve T., Lonnie H. and Vivian M. (Hammonds), Wendy C. (Harshbarger), Wendy C., Christy V. (Massey), Gloria S., Kim H., Vickie K., Cindy K. (Ganek), John R. (Hethershaw), James M., Patty M., Enrique E. (Moore), William W. (Weinburger), Jeffrey H. & Leah H. (Heasley), Katie B. (Pohla), Wendy S. (Adamson), Judy N. (Dukes), Sherry M. (Garrison), Lee H. (Helms), Caleb & Michaela W. (Henderson), Gerald H. (Roberts), Tucker H. (Hudson)

## Good Things to Know

### *Attendance*

Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 23

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 120

Online Worship Attendance - 34

Total Attendance – 177

### ***Today's Worship Leader***

Martha Haines

### ***Today's Flowers***

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Greg & Irma Scott,  
in memory of our daughter, Amy Scott Ochoa.



## Visitor Form

*Thank you for coming! We would love to get to know you.*

Please complete this form by tearing it off and dropping it in the offertory plate. Or, if you would prefer to complete this form online, please visit our website at [www.fpcConroe.org](http://www.fpcConroe.org).

### Contact Information

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

### Children's Information

Children's Names (Please indicate last name if different):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Getting Involved in the Life of the Church

(Please check all that apply)

- ☐ I would like more information about membership.
- ☐ I would like information about baptism.
- ☐ I would like to be contacted by a Stephen Minister.
- ☐ Contact me about getting involved in the church.

### Please contact me regarding:

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Sunday School

\_\_\_\_\_ Bible Studies

\_\_\_\_\_ Children & Nursery

\_\_\_\_\_ Men's groups

\_\_\_\_\_ Women's groups

\_\_\_\_\_ Greeters

\_\_\_\_\_ Handbells

\_\_\_\_\_ Choir

Other:

### How did you first hear about us? (Please circle one)

Facebook

Drive by

Website

Friend/Family

Other



# Easter Lilies

History, mythology, and art are filled with stories and images that speak of the beauty and majesty of these elegant white flowers. One of the most famous Biblical references is in the Sermon on the Mount, when Christ

said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin and yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Often called the "White-Robed Apostles of Hope," lilies are said to have been found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. At Easter time, churches bank their communion tables and surround their crosses with masses of Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.

To help bring the beauty of the lily to our church this Easter, church members may purchase a lily in memory or in honor of a loved one, a special occasion or relevant event. Simply complete the information below and enclose a check or cash in the amount of \$15 for each lily. Place your form and payment in the collection plate or return to the church office. ***All orders should be in by Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.***

**Please print clearly.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of lilies \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Designation \_\_\_\_\_

## Staff and Church Information

### Staff

Rev. Callie Candee, Pastoral Care  
Rev. Greg Han, Temporary Pulpit Pastor  
Dena Sowden, Director of Christian Education  
Sharon VanSchuyver, Director of Communications  
Stephanie Cooke, Music Director  
Rolethial McKelvey, Accompanist  
Jackye Cannon and Jane Corbit, Bookkeeping  
Yvonne Rose, Office Manager  
Shirley Dukes, Parish Nurse



### First Presbyterian Church

#### *Physical Address:*

2727 N. Loop 336 W., Conroe, TX 77304  
Church Office (936) 756-8884 Fax (936) 756-8842  
Website: [www.fpcConroe.org](http://www.fpcConroe.org)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

#### *Mailing Address:*

2257 N Loop 336 W  
Suite 140, # 349, Conroe, TX 77304