

First Presbyterian Church

March 30, 2025

LOST -AND- FOUND

The Prodigal Son

LUKE 15:11-32

Sermon: **“Lost and Found”**

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First Presbyterian Church of Conroe Welcomes You!



Visitors and Guests: We are excited you have chosen to worship with us today! As a small token of our appreciation, we invite you to stop by the Welcome Desk in the narthex to pick up a complimentary FPC Conroe bookmark and a church brochure. We hope to see you again soon!

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. There you can fill out the visitor form online, or you can do so now by visiting our welcome desk. We appreciate you joining us for services today.

~ Good Things to Know ~

Today's Worship Leader

Masen Stuntz

Today's Flowers

There is no flower dedication for today.

Last Week's Attendance, March 23

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 22

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 136

Online Worship Attendance - 27

Total Attendance – 185

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The Lord has rolled away our shame and called us into new life.
We stand in the grace of God, redeemed and restored!
Just as God provided for Israel in the wilderness, God provides for us today.

We trust in the Lord, who sustains us with every good gift.

No longer do we live on manna alone, but on the abundance of God's promises.

We rejoice in the feast of God's provision and faithfulness!

Come, let us worship the Lord, who leads us into a new day.

We worship with joy, for God's mercy endures forever!

*Hymn #478

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

1. Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise Him for His grace and favor
To His people in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.
3. Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. When we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

Because of Christ's great love for us, we are forgiven!

*Gloria Patri

The Word

Scripture Readings

Psalm 32; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Lost and Found"

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn #280

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Copyright Information

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"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

Arr. by Molly Ijames

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11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Introit V

Folts

Call to Worship

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Just as God provided for Israel in the wilderness, God provides for us today.

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No longer do we live on manna alone, but on the abundance of God's promises.

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Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves.
You've seen how eager we are to leave your side for the allure of faraway places. You've seen how quick we are to abandon you and labor, unsuccessfully, to establish our own self-sufficiency apart from you.
You've seen how easily we find ourselves in a far country, separated from you, separated from each other, blind to your goodness and unable to see our sins. Unless you strengthen our spirits, create in us clean hearts, and help us to see our true selves in Jesus Christ, we cannot make the journey home.

Come and meet us where we are, O God, but do not leave us there.
Guide us into your welcoming arms, into your loving embrace, to the music and the dancing and the great feast you have prepared for us; for we are easily lost, and only your love, O God, can find us and bring us back home.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. When we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

Because of Christ's great love for us, we are forgiven!

*Gloria Patri

Minute for Mission

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology

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

*Choral Response

The Word

Children's Time

Anthem

When Morning Gilds the Skies

I James

Scripture Reading

Psalm 32

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

4. Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sermon

"Lost and Found"

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

*Hymn #280

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Lord, Make Us More Holy

Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
Until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy,
Until we meet again.

*Postlude

This Week's Scripture Readings

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² **Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.** ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, **"This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."**

³ So he told them this parable:

¹¹ Then Jesus said, **"There was a man who had two sons.** ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But **when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."** ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father.

But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then **the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’** ²² But the father said **to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.’** ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ **for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’** And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ **“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.”** ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ **He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’** ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered **his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.’** ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured **your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’** ³¹ Then the father **said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’** ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

Notes



Easter Lily Order and Dedications

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 Thursday, April 10th.

New and Prospective Members Invited to "First Steps" Orientation Class on April 13

First Presbyterian Church Conroe and its Membership Committee will host a new and prospective member lunch and orientation class called First Steps on Sunday, April 13, from 12:30 p.m. (following the 11 a.m. worship service) until 1:45 p.m. in the Family Life Center Gym. First Steps gives new and prospective members an overview of the Christian faith, the Presbyterian tradition, and the mission and ministries of our church. Rev. Saathoff and several lay leaders will facilitate this class. Lunch and nursery will be provided. Please confirm your attendance to Steve Scheffler at (281)-851-1690 or email: scscheffler@sbcglobal.net on or before April 9.

Greeters Needed for 8:30 Service

We are in need of Greeters for the 8:30 am service. If you would be able to greet before and after the service, once a month, please contact Judy Weinburger at (713) 203-8458.

Prayer List Updates

In an effort to keep everyone informed with accurate and timely requests, we would like to update our prayer list. If someone on the prayer list no longer requires prayer, please make the church office staff aware. Thank you.

New Bible Study Series Begins May 4th

On May 4, Frank Denton will host a one-hour class on Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m., “The Bible, an Overview” as an introduction into his new Bible Study to begin in June. This study



will take you through the Bible Genesis-Revelations in a 52-week period. We will cover a book (or two) each week in our one-hour study. As a guideline we will use Dr. Alan B Stringfellow's work book “Through the Bible in One Year”

You will learn major themes of all the books, the key verses, the central messages. You will learn how each book is organized, how it came into being and its role in the Bible story.

This may well be the most exciting journey of your Christian life. It will go **through step by step each book and connect the dots, if you will, for God's plan** of redemption for mankind from the first chapter. You will learn why the Jewish faith and traditions have had a strong influence on our Christian community even today. How the prophecies and events of the Old Testament relate to the New Testament and even our modern traditions and Christian faith.

Sermons we hear weekly and hymns we sing will take on a new and special meaning after seeing how they relate to events in the Bible.

We hope to see you Sunday May 4th at 5:00 for an introduction to this exciting and informative journey.

Children's Church

After the Children's Sermon, children between 5-8 will be invited to attend Children's Church, where they will pray, sing praise songs, and learn Bible stories - everything we do in a regular church service, but more age-appropriate. Children will return to the sanctuary for the final hymn.

Volunteers are needed, so please use the link or scan the QR code to pick a date!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4CABAD2EA2F94-55218097-childrens>



SCAN ME

PDS Fundraiser

PDS is selling the [Slice the Price \(StP\) card](#) to raise money towards day school costs.

- The cost of the card is just \$20* so it can quickly pay for itself! * *plus shipping, if ordered online*
- Every time you buy a large pizza at menu price, you get a large pizza FREE!
- Great for parties! Get double the large pizzas no matter how many you order!
- UNLIMITED uses through 12/31/2025.

The Slice the Price card works in 1,879 Dominoes stores in 30 states, and counting.

Want to support without purchasing for yourself? Or want to give extra support? Donate [Slice the Price cards](#) directly to Presbyterian Day School!

- Enter the number of cards you want to donate. (Do not enter a dollar value!)
- Donated cards will be delivered to Presbyterian Day School at the end of their fundraiser.
- They get the same financial support as if you bought for yourself, PLUS they can resell or give away the cards you donated. Great for appreciation gifts, promotional items, and more!





When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:10-11

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Our church's capital campaign to reduce our long-term debt will continue into the month of May. By bestowing our gifts to reduce the church's debt, our church will be able to use the savings on debt service payments for our outreach and mission to serve our Lord and share His love with others.

Purpose: Reduce the church's debt

Outcome: Use savings in interest payments toward outreach and operations

Goal: \$800,000 to be paid over 3 years

Pledges to Date: \$762,000 (God is good!)

What if we raise more than \$800,000? We can dedicate even more to outreach and operations! Here's how much we can dedicate to outreach and operations by the end of the 3-year campaign:

Debt Reduction	Savings (nearest 1,000)
\$800,000	\$70,000 annually
\$900,000	\$78,000 annually
\$1,000,000	\$86,000 annually

What can you do? Please pray for (1) the overall success of our campaign so that **FPC-Conroe can further our outreach to grow God's Kingdom** and (2) how God is calling you individually to be part of this opportunity. Visiting stewards will reach out to meet during March or April to provide information and answer questions.

In May, we will celebrate the amounts pledged for our capital campaign. Just as the wise men rejoiced, we will joyfully celebrate and pay homage to Christ with our gifts to grow His Kingdom.

Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>March 30</i></p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary) 9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus. 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class (Rm. 204) Studying "More Parables from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas, taught by Deborah Geddes, Glenna Lang and Glenn Elms. 9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206) 9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians 9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School (Rm. 203) 10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex) 10:40 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary) 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>March 31</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Tuesday</i> <i>April 1</i></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>April 2</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105) 5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>April 6</i></p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary) 9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus. 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class (Rm. 204) Studying "More Parables from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas, taught by Deborah Geddes, Glenna Lang and Glenn Elms. 9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206) 9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians 9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School (Rm. 203) 10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex) 10:40 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary) 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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Save the Date

April 13	Palm Sunday
April 17	Maundy Thursday
April 18	Good Friday
April 20	Easter Sunday Services / Easter Egg Hunt
April 27	Youth Auction & Mystery Dinner
May 1	National Day of Prayer



Prayer List

Members: The family of Cecil Watt, Roy Kessler, Judy Weinburger, Ruth Masters, Kyle Walker, Glenna Lang, Jeannene Wendt, Reed Watson, John Lancaster, Nedra Murphy, Kari Elliott, Tildon Hebert, David Green, Ron Bailey, Joanne Deaver, Alice Helms, Polly Miller, Jean Ball, Mary Hudson, Paul Ivison, Virginia Tamborello, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: Jerry W., Lisa W. (Webb), Celia G. (Hernandez-Garcia), Wes K. (Yates), Alicia I., James I., and Ron S. (Bailey), Susie K. (Davis), Anna (Harshbarger), Brooke J., Danielle S. & kids, Kelly D., Stephanie R. (Riggs-Harpur), Blade B., Judy N. (Dukes), Bonnie L., Michael R. (Dwyer), Tom J. & family, Bill M. (Browder), Tony N. (Spinks), Aimee L. (Amoneno), Buddy H. (Hayter), Amanda N. (Bosse), Brenda H. (Cannon), Scott P. (Peterson), Linda S., Larry B., Janie M. (Harrison), Lindsey W. (Walker), Lisa J. (Miller), Shannon L. (Diamond), Rick J. (Juhl), Joe T. Sr., Harry S., Jr. and family (Havens), Steve T., Lonnie H. and Vivian M. (Hammonds), Kim H. (Ganek), John R. (Hethershaw), James M., Patty M., Enrique E. (Moore), Jeffrey H. & Leah H. (Heasley), Katie B. (Pohla), Wendy S. (Adamson), Sherry M. (Garrison), Lee H. (Helms), Caleb & Michaela W. (Henderson), Gerald H. (Roberts), Tucker H. (Hudson)



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, April 10th.***

Please print clearly.

Name _____

Number of lilies _____ Amount enclosed _____ Phone # _____

Designation _____

Staff and Church Information

Staff

Rev. Seth Saathoff, Senior Pastor
Dena Sowden, Director of Christian Education
Sharon VanSchuyver, Director of Communications
Yvonne Rose, Office Manager
Bonnie Hernandez, Music Director
Rolethial McKelvey, Accompanist
Jackye Cannon and Jane Corbit, Bookkeeping
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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Mailing Address:

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