

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

The First Sunday of Lent:
February 18, 2024 at 10 am

*"Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
just as God through Christ has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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"THERE IS A REDEEMER"

There is a Redeemer, Jesus God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God Messiah Holy One.

*Thank You O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit, till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain. *[Refrain]*

When I stand in glory, I will see His face,
There I'll serve my King, forever,
In that holy place. *[Refrain]*

"There Is a Redeemer," by Melody Green.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Let us worship God,
for whom our souls thirst and our bodies long.

**Listen, listen to me,
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.**

We have come to hear the Word God has sent.

**God's Word will not return empty
but will accomplish through us his holy purpose.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Then we will go out with joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills will sing;
the trees of the field will clap their hands.**

Based on Isaiah 55:2, 11-12; John 4:24

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HYMN #151: "CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS"

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love;
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace;
Whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end;
And round His piercèd feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**Forgive us, Gracious Father,
for the limitations we have placed on our graciousness toward others.**

We often treat others well only if there is something in it for us.

We apologize, but only if we see no alternative.

We justify our grudges when others have hurt us.

We remember offenses that we should have long ago forgotten.

We are far too comfortable with brokenness

when we should be reaching out with healing.

We expect you to forgive us when we find it hard to do the same for others.

**Grant us your pardon, Lord,
and through your Holy Spirit equip us and motivate us
to share your graciousness with others.
For the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**

After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.

CHOIR: "I HEARD THE VOICE"

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"Loving One Another: Forgive One Another"*

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

²² "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

²³ "Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴ In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. ²⁵ He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

²⁶ "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' ²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

²⁸ "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

²⁹ "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

³¹ "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³² Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

³⁵ "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

Colossians 3:12-15

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support our deacons' provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.

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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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HYMN #347: "FORGIVE OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE"

"Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
You taught us, Lord, to pray,
But you alone can grant us grace
To live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless
The unforgiving heart,
That broods on wrongs and will not let
Old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals
The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us,
How great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,
And bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of love,
Our lives will spread your peace.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Monday, Wednesday – Friday)

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

CALENDAR

- TODAY, February 18** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)
 Sunday Worship (10:00 in the sanctuary)
 Youth Group (4:00 here at the church)
- Tuesday, Feb 20** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
 Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
 Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Wed, Feb 21** Lenten Study: *Eavesdropping on Peter*
 Coffee and Study (1:00 pm)
 Soup and Study (6:00 pm)
- Sunday, Feb 25** Sunday Worship (10:00 in the sanctuary)

REMINDER

As our facility becomes more busy, it’s important that we have all meetings (and other uses of the building) on the church calendar. Please remember to arrange any events with Aries in the church office. Thanks.