



The Church of the Open Hands

First Presbyterian Church of Farmington

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[www.farmington-pres.org](http://www.farmington-pres.org)

## March 8, 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Prayer of Preparation

Sydney, Australia

*O God who travels with us in the shadows, you know who we are. We long for life which is full and free. We long to know the truth and we want to leave behind us all the things which holds us back. We want to move forward in faith, but the way seems so dangerous and we stand in helpless fear before the hiddenness in our past and in our future.*

### We Enter into God's Presence

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit*

Welcome & Congregational Life

Invitation to the Holy Spirit 695

*Change My Heart, O God*

*Extinguish a candle acknowledging the darkness and pain in the world. Each Sunday another candle will be extinguished, until the final candle goes out on Palm/Passion Day.*

Prelude

*Le Prie-Dieu*

George Oldroyd

\*Sung Call to Worship (responsively)

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

2214 Sing The Faith

Do we dare place our trust in God?

**Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

Are we willing to continue on the journey when we don't know the dangers and are not sure of the destination?

**Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

Let us step forward boldly, listening for God's call in our lives.

**Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

Confessing Our Separation from God (unison)

**We are all too human, Faithful God, and so we think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus or Sarah. We look for answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives. Yet you continue to keep watch, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives, or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the night. You will not stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You will always be our help, whether or not we recognize it or accept it, even as you remained faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

A Time of Silent, Personal Prayer for Peace

\*Song of Assurance 698

*Take, O Take Me as I Am*

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

## **We Hear God's Word**

Mindfulness Prayer

Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 12:1-4a

O.T. p. 10

### **The Call of Abram**

**12** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." <sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Anthem

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

American Folk Hymn,  
arr. Custer

Not for Children Only

*Prayer cards collected*

\*Passing of the Peace of Christ

*Turn to your neighbor and pass the Peace of Christ*

**Nicodemus Visits Jesus**

**3** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” **3** Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” **4** Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ **8** The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” **9** Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? **11** “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. **16** “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. **17** “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Reflection

Pastor Eddie

**We Respond to God’s Word**

\*Affirmation of Faith

Patmos Abbey — The Order of Saint Columba

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs. We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted. We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child. We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts. We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine. We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us. This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Song of Invitation 469

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

**Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.**

Joys & Hopes of the People of God & The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory & Signing  
of the Friendship Pad

*Amazing Grace*

arr. Myra Schubert

\*Doxology

*All That We Have*

Jerry Custer

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

based on Psalm 121

**Generous God, our guide on the journey: as we continue in worship by offering our gifts in response to your goodness, we can’t imagine where we would be without you guiding our path – sometimes before us; sometimes besides us; sometimes behind us, nudging us in the direction of the work you have for us. As you have watched over and cared for your creation, so we acknowledge in our giving that you are calling us to do the same. We surrender our treasure, knowing our hearts will follow. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

## **We Follow God’s Word into the World**

\*Hymn 65

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

\*Benediction

Postlude

*Nimrod from Enigma Variations*

Edward Elgar,  
arr. Robert Gower

**Prayers for the Grieving:** *[Names provide in print edition].*

**We hold in our prayers:** *[Names provide in print edition].*

## **Assisting in Worship**

Liturgist  
Ushers

**March 8**  
Richard Spurgeon  
**Dale Countegan**  
Phil Cramer  
Mimi Cramer

**March 15**  
Lois Caito  
**Irwin Moyna**  
Eddie Matteson  
Mitchell Cressman  
Sue Andrews  
Ev & Sandi Randlett  
Sue Carlson  
Dave Carlson  
Ron Prieskorn  
Last names L - R  
Deborah Draper

Greeters  
Welcome Center  
Sunday Sextons

Dave & Emily Schwartz  
Carolee Caylor  
Jeff Ely  
Dale Countegan  
Last names E - K

Hospitality Time Hosts  
Communion Bread Baker

**Poverty Simulation – Walking in Their Shoes:** Today at 2:00 p.m., the staff at COTS (Coalition on Temporary Shelters/Creating Opportunities to Succeed) will be at our church to lead us in an exercise to better understand the plight of those who live in poverty. This 2-1/2-hour Poverty Simulation will reveal how many families and individuals struggle to gain self-sufficiency. Participants assume the roles of different families facing poverty. Each “family” must provide for basic necessities and shelter while interacting with volunteers playing the roles of bill collectors, school administrators, social services personnel and more. Walk-ins welcome. We will accept a free will offering to offset some of the expense.

**Rebuilding Together meeting:** Those interested in participating in Rebuilding Together are asked to meet in Knox Hall after worship to discuss this year’s project and the schedule of work leading up to and on Saturday, April 25. If you can’t make the meeting, please see Tom Neal or Emily Davis for an update.

**Lenten Study: He Chose the Nails, by Max Lucado.** It’s not too late to join Pastor Eddie Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. from March 10 – 31 for “He Chose the Nails,” a five-session video Bible study, where Max Lucado continues examining the gifts that Christ gave at his crucifixion. Every gift from God reveals God’s love, but no gift reveals God’s love more than the gift of the cross. The cross is rich with God’s gifts of grace, and as we unwrap them, we will hear him whisper, “I did it just for you.” Books are available in the church office at a cost of \$10 each. Write Lenten Study Book on your check memo line please.

**Annual PW Women’s Retreat:** “Deeper into the Heart of God” features Sharon Garlough Brown, author of “Sensible Shoes, A Story about the Spiritual Journey,” as our Keynote Speaker! Presbyterian Women of Detroit invites you to a day of fun and fellowship this coming Saturday, March 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. here at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington. There is a \$30 registration fee, which includes a hot, catered lunch. Contact Nancy Cook, Sally Kirsten or Sue Carlson or pick up a brochure from the PW bulletin board or the welcome table. All women are welcome!

**Pizza and Games Night:** Join us Friday, March 20 from 6-8 PM in Knox Hall. Bring your own board game or play one provided. The Nurture Committee is ready to celebrate the first day of Spring with our Spring Connections Events. All are welcome. Bring a friend! Please RSVP to Kim Kucharski .

**Do you have too much “stuff”?** What should you do with all of it? Please join Heidi Roed for “Less Stuff, More Life” after worship on March 22 as she discusses how to get more out of life through the act of decluttering and organizing. During this free seminar, she will talk about how to tackle paring down while dealing with our emotional attachment as well as how to slow the inbound flow of items. Heidi is the daughter of our own Georgia Roed and is the business owner of Life Easier.

**Memorial Luncheon Volunteers Needed:** The Deacons are building a data base of church members and friends who can be called on to set up, clean up or provide a salad or dessert for memorial luncheons. Please let Marcia Van Hamme know if you are interested in being included in that data base. .

**Operation Nametag Update:** New nametags were created during Lighthouse Week, but the job isn't finished. See a nametag that needs an update or needs to be removed? Is there a nametag missing? Are you first aid or CPR-trained? Get in touch with Chris Davis so we can keep the tags current and so we can identify those in the pews who have lifesaving skills. (Also — please wear your nametags during worship!)

**Hospitality Time schedule:** You are invited to bring ONE food item on ONE Sunday each month. Your Sunday depends on the first letter of your last name. It would be greatly appreciated if you are also able to help with set-up or clean-up. Here's the upcoming schedule:

- Mar. 1: Last names beginning A - D; Deborah Draper, coordinator
- Mar. 8: Last names beginning E-K; Pat & Mark Plamondon, coordinators
- Mar. 15: Last names beginning L-R; seeking a volunteer coordinator
- Mar. 22: Last names beginning S - Z; Sue & Don Schwartz, coordinators
- March 29: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck; Family & Children Ministry Open House

## **This Week at First Presbyterian**

### **Sunday, March 8 – 2nd Sunday in Lent**

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Church School
- 11:15 am Hospitality Time
- 11:15 am Rebuilding Together Meeting
- 2:00 pm Poverty Simulation

### **Monday, March 9**

- 1:00 pm Presidential Primary set up
- 7:00 pm Soul Stretch Yoga

### **Tuesday, March 10**

- 7:00 am Presidential Primary Election open until 8:00 pm
- 8:00 am Men's Breakfast, Leo's Coney Island
- 9:30 am ACTS Circle
- 10:00 am Lent Bible Study: He Chose The Nails
- 3:00 pm Operations meeting
- 7:00 pm Stephen Ministers
- 7:15 pm Phoenix Circle

### **Wednesday, March 11**

- 9:00 am Presidential Primary tear down
- 9:00 am GLRO Toastmasters
- 3:30 pm Caregiving Leaders Meeting
- 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, March 12**

10:00 am Deborah Circle  
 10:00 am ESL & More! Class  
 6:00 pm Cub Scouts  
 7:00 pm JOY! Study

**Friday, March 13**

10:00 am Setup for PWPDP Women's Retreat

**Saturday, March 14**

9:00 am Annual PWPDP Women's Retreat

**Sunday, March 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent / Holy Communion**

9:00 am Adult Bible Study  
 10:00 am Worship with Communion  
 11:15 am Hospitality Time  
 2:00 pm Eagle Court of Honor - Nowicki

**First Presbyterian Staff**

<b>Senior Pastor</b>	The Rev. Eddie Jusino
<b>Ministers</b>	Members of the Congregation
<b>Pastoral Care Parish Associate</b>	The Rev. Craig Aue
<b>Family &amp; Youth Ministry</b>	
<b>Coordinator</b>	Kim Kucharski
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Dr. Jerry Custer
<b>Organist</b>	Shari Fiore
<b>Office Manager</b>	Karen Spica
<b>Sexton</b>	Vanya Georgieva
<b>Childcare Provider</b>	Leslie Van Hamme