

In preparing our hearts for worship, we will be dimming the lights in the narthex, indicating a time to prepare ourselves for worship. Please enter the sanctuary quietly and in time to hear the welcome and announcements.

February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

Prayer of Preparation—Psalm 1.1-3

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers, but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law, they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

We Enter into God's Presence

*Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude	How Firm A Foundation	arr. Brent Edstrom
Welcome / Greetings		Pastor Bruce Mulder
	<i>Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards</i> <i>Welcoming Our Guests</i>	

*Call to Worship

The heavens are telling the glory of God.
 And the firmament proclaim God's handiwork.

**Day to day pours forth speech,
 And night to night declares knowledge.**

There is no speech, nor are there words.
 Their voice is not heard.

**Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
 And their words to the end of the world.**

The glory of God echoes throughout the world.

Let us praise the name of the Lord.

**Opening Hymn #249*

Because You Live, O Christ

**Because you live, O Christ, the garden of the world has come to flower.
The darkness of the tomb is flooded with your resurrection power.
The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter day, for Jesus Christ has risen, has risen, has risen, has risen!**

**Because you live, O Christ, the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying.
Our cages of despair no longer keep us closed and life denying.
The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter day, for Jesus Christ has risen, has risen, has risen, has risen!**

**Because you live, O Christ, the rainbow of your peace will span creation.
The colors of your love will draw all humankind to adoration.
The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter day, for Jesus Christ has risen, has risen, has risen, has risen!**

Prayer of Confession—based on Matthew 2:1-16; 6:33

God of the Bethlehem star, everyone is searching for your light shining in the face of Christ. The Magi sought Christ simply to worship him. But Herod sought him to appease his jealous anger.

We confess that our motives in seeking Jesus are not pure.

We do not come simply to worship: we come to Christ, asking his benefits of reassurance, health, wealth; asking him to fulfill the hundred petitions for not-so-important requests that we heap before him. But the Magi sought first the kingdom.

Help us, God, to follow their example, putting our own need in perspective, worshiping the Christ in love, content to be in your presence, and laying our gifts before you.

Then may we journey, trusting that your goodness and light will accompany us all the days of our life.

Through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance—Psalm 130:3-4, 7-8

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with God is great power to redeem.
It is God who will redeem us from all our iniquities.

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

Reading

Psalm 1; Luke 6.17-26

Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers, but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous, for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Luke 6.17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Anthem

Early Will I Seek Thee
FPC Choir

by Thomas Weelkes

Sermon

“Comfort and Challenge”

A Christian is a person who pursues a certain way of life. This way of life involves beliefs, and it is done together with others , but the beliefs and the belonging are gathered up and expressed in the way that Christians live life.

Testimony

Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Long

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Collection of Prayer Cards
Doxology #606

Pastor Bruce Mulder

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

Prayer of the People, Thanksgiving, & The Lord's Prayer

God of light, we praise you as the one who shows your glory to the nations in the coming of Jesus Christ! We thank you for your reflections of your glory in your world and in our community.

SILENCE

We thank you for your work in creation, as well as your work in the world.

SILENCE

We worship you for your work in the church and local community.

SILENCE

Holy and righteous God, help us to see these signs of glory as signs of your coming kingdom and its eternal rule. We long for the fullness of your reign. Come, Lord Jesus. In light of your love, we offer our petitions to you now, coming to you in the name and power of Jesus

Today, we pray for the nations of the world, our nation, and all leaders.

SILENCE

Today, we pray for the church universal, its call and mission, and those who serve selflessly.

SILENCE

Today, we pray for all people in our communities.

SILENCE

Spirit of the living God, we offer these prayers in the glorious and blessed name of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation who teaches us:

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

We Follow God’s Word into the World

Hymn of Sending #457 How Happy Are the Saints of God (Psalm 1)

**Listen, listen, God is calling, through the World inviting,
Offering forgiveness, comfort and joy. Joy.
Jesus gave his mandate: share the good news
That he came to save us and set us free**

**Listen, listen, God is calling, through the World inviting,
Offering forgiveness, comfort and joy. Joy.
Let none be forgotten throughout the world.
In the triune name of God go and baptize.**

**Listen, listen, God is calling, through the World inviting,
Offering forgiveness, comfort and joy. Joy.
Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast,
Walking in your precepts, led by your Word.**

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

The Throne Room

by John Williams
arr by Titus Grenyer

2025 Offering Envelopes

If you requested a box, please pick it up from the Welcome Center in the Narthex. If you would like to order a box or are unable to pick yours up, please contact the church office.

It is time to pay the 2025 Presbytery Per Capita Apportionment

The Presbyterian Church U.S.A is a “connectional” church where we interact through the Presbytery of Detroit, the Synod of the Covenant, and the General Assembly. These councils are funded by a “Per Capita” amount which is based on the number of active members at each church. For 2025, the Presbytery Per Capita amount is \$37.09. To make it easier, we are asking that each member contributes \$37.00 to help offset this amount. Checks may be

made payable to the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington; please note “Per Capita” on the memo line.

CALLING ALL FPCF WOMEN (& Friends)

We are planning an afternoon of fun on Thursday or Friday February 20 or 21. Join us for non-cutthroat EUCHRE or BUNCO in Knox Hall. Please sign-up (TODAY!) on the kiosk in the foyer (next to the door to the garden). Any questions? See Nancy Prieskorn

Lenten Study: “Lord, teach us to pray” (February 17 – April 7)

Join us for an 8-week journey through the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) that will deepen your prayer life during this Lenten season. The prayer course will be held every Monday morning, 10:00 am – 11:00 am, in the Garden/Parlor Room, from February 17- April 7. The course consists of a video, discussion questions, and practical prayer activities. **Registration is required to plan room size.**

Please register at: [Sign-up for the 2025 Lenten Study](#)

Or contact Sharon Cressman or Colleen Tavor.

Adult Bible Discussion – The Wired Word

Join our Bible discussion **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in 208/210**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. To get on the email list, please contact Tom Neal at tneal@sbcglobal.net.

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. Please note healthy options are welcome as well such as fruit, eggs, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here’s the upcoming schedule:

February 9: Last names beginning L-R

February 16: Last names beginning S-Z

February 23: Last names beginning A-D

March 2: Last names beginning E-K

March 9: Last names beginning L-R



QR Code for Donations!

If you ever forget to go to the ATM, or simply don't carry cash on you, we've decided to include the church QR code for a more streamlined donation process. To donate, just scan the QR code and follow the prompts!

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church

Transitional Senior Pastor

Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music

Office Administrator

Administrative Assistant

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

Rev. Bruce Mulder

Rev. Craig Aue

Peter Cartwright

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