



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FARMINGTON

*Church of the Open Hands*

WELCOMING ALL; SHARING CHRIST; SERVING OTHERS

26165 Farmington Road,  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
(248) 474-6170  
[www.farmington-pres.org](http://www.farmington-pres.org)

*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.*

# April 6, 2025

## Fifth Sunday in Lent



### Prayer of Preparation

Holy and loving God, as we worship you today, we long for your Spirit to both comfort and challenge us, help us become more holy and more loving. In a world that does not understand repentance, we pray for new understanding, humility, patience, and discipline that will help us die to sin and live for Jesus. **Amen.**

## We Enter into God's Presence

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

arr Brent Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings

Pastor Bruce Mulder

*Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards*

Call to Worship based on Psalm 99

Liturgist

O Christ, Savior, like the seed fallen to the ground, you suffered death.  
United to you, our lives will bear much fruit.

**We praise you, Lord.**

O Christ, you went down to the lowest point of the human condition;  
you remain close to all who are abandoned.

**We praise you, Lord.**

In your love you took upon yourself our sins; innocent, you accepted death to free us from death.

**We praise you, Lord.**

By your love you conquered evil and hatred, and you live forever at the Father's side.

**We praise you, Lord.**

You listen to us in your goodness, and you visit us in our misfortune;  
fill our hearts to overflowing by revealing to us the light of your face.

**We praise you, Lord. Let us worship God.**

\*Opening Hymn #629

Jesus the Very Thought of You

**Jesus the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast.**

**But sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.**

**Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,**

**Nor can the mind recall a sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Savior of us all.**

**O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,  
To those who fall how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!**

**But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show.  
The love of Jesus, what it is none but his loved ones know.**

**Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be.  
Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.**

Prayer of Confession

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace. You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy; you are generous to all who call upon you.

**Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sin. On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions and were bruised for our iniquities.

**Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort, our life and our resurrection, our peace and reconciliation:

**Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, hope of all who die for you,  
and joy of all the saints:

**Save us, Lord.**

Jesus, Lamb of God,

**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

**grant us peace. Amen.**

Words of Assurance based on Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, *The LORD has done great things for them.*

**The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.**

Sisters and Brothers, give thanks. God has wiped away our sin and remembered it no more. Amen.

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

Reading

Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8

Liturgist

### Philippians 3.4b-14

Even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had; these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

## John 12.1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Anthem

In Remembrance Of Me  
FPC Choir

Buryl Red

Sermon

"Crucifixion: Act of Love"

Offertory & Collection of Prayer Cards

Doxology #606

**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.**

Song of Invitation #701

*Sanctuary*

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.  
Celebrating the Lord's Supper**

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eternal God, holy and mighty, it is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks ... the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

### The Words of Institution

The Lord Jesus, the same night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me.*"

In the same way, after they had eaten, Jesus poured a cup saying, "*This cup is the new testament in my blood: do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*"

### Sharing of the Gifts of Bread & Cup

*Please come forward to receive the bread and cup when you are ready or raise your hand and you will be served where you are seated.*

### Communion Prayer—from Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**and forget not all God's benefits,**

who forgives all your iniquity,

**who heals all your diseases,**

who redeems your life from the Pit,

**who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**and all that is within me, bless God's holy name! Amen.**

## **We Respond to God's Word**

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

Liturgist

God of the covenant, as the forty days of deluge swept away the world's corruption and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life, so in the saving flood of baptism we are washed clean and born again. Throughout these forty days, unseal within us the wellspring of your grace, cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy, and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again. Grant this through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever and who teaches us to pray:

**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 # 630

Fairest Lord Jesus

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down, thee will I cherish,  
Thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
Robed in the blooming garb of spring. Jesus shines brighter;  
Jesus shines purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
And all the twinkling, starry host. Jesus shines brighter;  
Jesus shines purer, than all the angels in heaven can boast.**

**Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,  
Praise, adoration, now and forever more be thine!**

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

How Firm A Foundation

by Jason Payne



### **Mourning the Loss of Donald Prieskorn**

Donald Prieskorn, a member of our congregation, moved to more life on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

A graveside memorial for Donald will be held on Monday, April 21, 2025. Contact the Prieskorns for additional details.

<https://www.heeney-sundquist.com/obituary/donald-prieskorn>

### **Financial Town Hall**

Please join us Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> in Knox Hall following Worship to discuss FPC's finances.

### **BAKERS AND VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!**

Our 9th annual craft show is coming very soon. We need lots of bakers and volunteers. There is a sign up sheet on the Kiosk or speak to Deborah Draper, Sue Cooper or Leslie Moyna.

### **PNC Update**

The PNC thanks all of you for your prayers for us and our congregation. We have met several times with our first task being to write a job description for our next pastor. The established process created by Presbytery is to have the job description approved by our Personnel Committee, Session and the Commission of Ministry. As we continue with this process, we will continue to give you updates. Please continue to pray for our church as we all discern God's will for our congregation.

### **CARES Food Pantry**

The number of people needing assistance in providing enough food for their family continues to grow. Between 750 and 800 households are served by CARES each month. Please take home a yellow CARES shopping list, found in the pews, and take it with you on your next shopping trip. We have provided a plastic bin in the Narthex for your generous donations. Thank you for remembering your neighbors.

### **CALLING ALL WOMEN EUCHRE PLAYERS for a fun afternoon**

Our next afternoon of cards will be: **Friday May 2** from 2:00 to 4:00 in the **Library**. Add these dates to your calendar and sign up on the kiosk. Get in on the fun before we go on summer break! New players are welcome- we can teach YOU!

-Questions? See Nancy Prieskorn

### **Volunteer Information Form: What Are Your God-Given Talents?**

When considering how you would like to be a part of the FPCF family and helping to fulfill our vision of Welcoming All, Sharing Christ, Serving Others, a good place to start is to identify your God-given talents. What sort of activities do you like to do? Consider what you enjoy doing, what skills come easily to you, what you've been known for in the past. Let's all work together, using our God-given gifts and talents, to grow our church family and be the hands and feet of Jesus in and around our community. Please fill out the Volunteer Information Form attached to the bulletin and return it either by mail to the office or give it to Tom Neal, Colleen Tavor, or Karl Cressman.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From the initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

OGHS envelopes are available on the back of the pews. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church Farmington but be sure to note that it is for OGHS on the memo line.

### **Mission Opportunity: Service at Hospitality House Food Pantry**

We are joining Crossroads Presbyterian Church (the church Josh Archey serves) Saturday, April 26 for a day of service at Hospitality House Food Pantry located at 15 Mile Road and M5. The hours are 9:45 to 2:00pm.

Here's how you can join us:

1. Go to the Hospitality House website.
2. Click on the volunteer button.
3. Go through the volunteer registration steps.
4. Click on the Sign-up Genius button.
5. Scroll down to April 26.
6. Sign up!

Questions? See Josh Archey or Nancy Prieskorn

### **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.

### **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 [ttneal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttneal@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:

April 6: Last names beginning L-R

April 13: Last names beginning S-Z

April 20: Last names beginning A-D

April 27: Last names beginning E-K





### 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

Liz Labourdeth

Amanda May Schreiber

Lidia Neathamer



## 2025 Easter Flowers Order Form

*All orders are due by Monday, April 14*

Please place your order for Easter lilies, tulips, and/or azaleas (all in 6-inch pots with foil cover) by completing this form and returning it along with your payment. Plants may be taken after the 10:00 a.m. Easter worship service on April 20 or left for delivery to a homebound member.



☐ I / We wish to donate the following plant(s) for decorating the church on Easter Sunday and/or to support a community member in need. Please use the following recognition in the Easter bulletin:

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
name of person(s)

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
name of person(s)

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I / We would like to order the following number of plants:

\_\_\_\_\_ Red Tulip plant - \$12 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Fresh Produce for CARES - \$15 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily plant - \$16 each

Total due \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Payment included with order

☐ Please deliver my plant(s) to a homebound member.

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