

**3rd Sunday after Epiphany
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We're delighted that you're here! Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, whatever your faith or your doubts, we welcome all whom God welcomes, and that means you.

PRELUDE *Voluntary on "Kremser"* Gordon Young

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*INTROIT *Come, Let Us Worship God* (responsive) Ray Makeever
*Come, let us worship God. **Come, let us worship God.***
*Come, let us worship God. **Come, let us worship God.***
*Welcome everyone **Welcome everyone***
*to the love of God. **to the love of God.***

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 133
 How good it is, how wonderful, when people live as one!
**It is like sacred oil on the head flowing down over Aaron's beard,
 like the dew running down the mountains of Zion.**
 There God gives the blessing:
Life forever more.
 Let us worship God.

*HYMN 804 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* MARION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

**Gracious God, you call us to unity, but we sow the seeds of
 division. You promise your steadfast care, but we worry rather
 than pray. You surround us with gifts of beauty, but we fixate on
 brokenness and despair.**
**God of mercy, forgive us, we pray. Turn us from quarrelsome
 negativity to reconciling hope. Help us to live in trust, rejoicing
 in all that is good and just and commendable, that we may serve
 you with one heart, and live in your peace that passes all
 understanding. In silence, we turn to you...**

*KYRIE 577 *O Lord, Have Mercy* KYRIE ELEISON(Reindorf)

***Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.***

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*GLORIA 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD(Vasile)

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
 And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
 and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.***

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

(Please greet one another with: "The peace of Christ be with you."/ "And also with you.")

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SUNG INVITATION

*Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
 We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.*

FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Patti Winter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 25:1-9

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING John 17:1-11

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* Charles Gabriel

EPISTLE READING Philippians 4:1-9

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *The Cause of the Gospel* Rev. Dr. Ray Jones

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 837 *What a Fellowship* SHOWALTER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
 everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
 The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
 sets us free to accept ourselves
 and to love God and neighbor,
 and binds us together with all believers
 in the body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
 rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
 engages us through the Word proclaimed,
 claims us in the waters of baptism,
 feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
 and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
 the Spirit gives us courage
 to pray without ceasing,
 to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
 to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
 to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
 and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered, by the Spirit,
 we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
 and to live holy and joyful lives,
 even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
 praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Part of your offering today is the gift of your presence. Please acknowledge your presence by
 signing the welcome book at the end of your row. To be directed to our online giving site,
 please use your smartphone to scan here:*



THE OFFERTORY *Aria from the Suite in D* J. S. Bach

*THE DOXOLOGY 607 OLD HUNDRETH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise Christ, all people here below;
 praise Holy Spirit ever more;
 praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 733 *We All Are One in Mission* ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Our Going and Coming*

***Our going and coming,
 our end and beginning,
 are safe in your keeping,
 God, our endless blessing.***

*POSTLUDE *To God Be the Glory* V. Johnson

*Please stand as you are able.

**From *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster John Knox Press ©2018

WE WELCOME VISITORS Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at www.fpcbham.org.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME, our Session meets on the *first Sunday of the month* in the Chapel following the 11:00 worship service to welcome new members. If you are looking for a faith community, we hope you will make First your home.

FOR CHILDREN: Children's bags and bulletins are available in the Narthex (ushers can locate them for you). Please empty and return the bags after worship. We love having kids in worship, but the following alternatives are also available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Focus on Children*, children ages 3-7 go to the balcony, where they experience a little of what worship is like while doing learning activities related to the scripture with coloring, puzzles, books, children's bulletins and more. When the sacraments of the Lord's Supper or Baptism are celebrated, children return to the sanctuary. We invite those in second grade and above to remain in the sanctuary and participate in the entire worship service.

LET THE BELLS PLAY! Our 37-bell Rushton Memorial Carillon was the first such instrument in Birmingham and the third in the United States, when installed in 1924.

PRAYER REQUESTS Please use the Prayer Request and Information Change cards, found in the pew rack, to relay information to the church office. Print your name and any other information you may need to relay to the office and place it in the offering plate.

SERMONS are available from our website at www.fpcbham.org.

The LITURGIST for today is Scott Pierce.

Have you remembered the church in your will?

MISSION CENTERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST LIGHT, INC. is a mission center of FPC, giving shelter and support services for homeless women and children. If you would like to help, speak to our pastors or call Ruth Crosby, Executive Director (323-4277). First Light's website: www.firstlightshelter.org

RUTH AND NAOMI SENIOR OUTREACH (RNSO) has as its mission to become spiritual companions to isolated older adults and to call, equip, and support others to do so as well. Contact chaplain@rutbandnaomi.org.

THE RUSHTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER provides quality childcare in a loving, nurturing environment – accredited by NAEYC and licensed by the Department of Human Resources. Call the CDC office at 322-8310. The Center's website is www.eprdc.com

FAITH IN ACTION ALABAMA, a faith-based community-organizing effort FPC shares with faith communities throughout the city, works to improve quality of life for all our citizens. Faith in Action Alabama is an affiliate of Faith in Action National and can be reached at daniel@faal.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION provides support to First Presbyterian Church for the maintenance and upkeep of this historic sacred space built in 1889. 10% of the Foundation's annuity payment aids mission selected by session. Contact Mark Aldridge for more information.

THE REV. TERRY HAMILTON-POORE, Pastor and Head of Staff
THE REV. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Associate Pastor
THE REV. PATRICK HARLEY, Parish Associate
MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education
DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Director of Music/Organist
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