



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me.*

-Psalm 23:4

First Presbyterian Church of Saint Louis

March 9, 2025

1st Sunday of Lent



WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Whatever your culture or race,
Whatever your religion or background,
Whatever your age, orientation, or differing abilities,
Whatever has happened to you until now,
May this be a place of joy, peace, and healing for you.

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

We light the Christ Candle as a reminder that Christ's light surrounds us and fills us. Please feel free to light a candle in prayer at the candle station.

Gathering Music

Prelude in c minor, BWV 5463
J.S. Bach

Welcome

Rev. Bill Perman

*Please rise in body or spirit.

*Hymn #166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

*Opening Prayer (Unison)

Mary Bryant-Miller

Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, dear Christ, we fear no evil, because you shepherd us. You give us our daily bread. You quench our every thirst. You are nearer to us than our own breathing. Open our eyes once more to all the good you lay before us even in the leanest of days. Day by day, step by step, may we leave behind our fears and enter your Kingdom of Love. Amen.

*A Time of Silent Prayer

*Assurance of Christ's Presence

One: Dear friends, in Christ a peace that surpasses all understanding is available to us. Right here and right now.

All: **May the love, joy, and peace of Christ rule our hearts and minds.**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

*Passing the Peace



***Response of Praise #470 (Refrain)** *There is a Longing in Our Hearts*

The congregation will sing the following refrain first, then the choir will sing the verse, and finally the congregation will sing the refrain one more time.

***There is a longing in our hearts,
O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts
for love we only find in you, our God.***

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD PROCLAIMED

First Lesson

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Second Lesson

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.





Sermon

Rev. Bill Perman

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Musical Offering

"Come Unto Me"
Mary Beall

Prayers of the People

Breathing in – Lord Jesus Christ
Breathing out – Free me from striving
Breathing in – Peace beyond understanding
Breathing out – Soothe my worries
Breathing in – Light of the world
Breathing out – Warm my heart

Lord's Prayer (Unison)

**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 OFFER THE WORD TO THE WORLD

News of the Church

***Hymn #543**

God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

***Benediction**

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in g minor
J.S. Bach



WELCOME TO CHURCH

Welcome to First Pres! Join us as we Grow, Transform, and Serve!

We hope that you find the experience of church meaningful and our congregation welcoming. Please join us after worship for fellowship and refreshments in the back of the Sanctuary.

OUR VISION: By deepening our love for God and neighbor, we will build an intentionally inclusive and visible community to make a lasting difference in our lives and in the world.

OUR MISSION: We are an inclusive community inspired by Jesus' way of love and justice, called to grow, transform, and serve all.

Connect with First Pres!

Please use this QR code to connect with our church staff and/or to sign up for our weekly Enews letter. You can also find connection cards in the pews and at the back of the sanctuary.



Donate to First Pres

To make an electronic donation, please scan the QR code on the right. There is a PayPal fee of about 3% that will be deducted from your donation. Thank you for your generosity!



Check out our Enews!

Use this QR Code to keep up on all that is happening at First Pres. You will find many opportunities for fellowship, education, and service to the church and our community.



NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Horizons Bible Study, March 12, 6:30pm

Join us as we explore God's call to care for our neighbors and creation using the study guide *Let Justice Roll Down*. We'll discuss ecological issues, climate change, and how we can respond to injustice and environmental harm. Expect lively discussion, light refreshments, and fellowship!

Dewey's Give Back Night for EYC- March 31st

Enjoy great food while supporting our Early Years Center! Join us on Monday, March 31, for a delicious way to give back! Dine in or order carryout from Dewey's Pizza, U City location, mention Give Back Night, and up to 20% of sales will be donated to First Presbyterian Early Years Center. Ordering online? Simply include "GBN" in the order notes to participate.





Early Years Center —In need of laptops

The EYC would like to thank everyone for their generous donations of paper towel rolls and plastic bags. They currently have enough of both, so no further donations are needed at this time. However, the EYC is in need of 1-2 laptops to help the team meet together and access online resources for their classroom. If you have a new or gently used laptop you can donate, it would be greatly appreciated.

Early Years Center Scholarship Fund

We have raised over \$7300 for our EYC Scholarship Fund. Thanks for your generosity! If you would like to make a donation please make a payment to First Presbyterian Church marked "EYC Scholarships."

Community Yoga Class


Join our Community Yoga class every Tuesday at 12pm in our sanctuary. This open-level Vinyasa Flow session welcomes both beginners and experienced yogis. Led by Katie LeGrand, a passionate instructor and wellness coach, these donation-based classes focus on alignment, mobility, and personal growth. Please bring a yoga mat (extras available) and enter through the main red sanctuary doors off Overhill Drive. No registration is needed—just arrive by 11:45 a.m. to settle in. For questions, contact Katie at kopareceipt@gmail.com. Venmo donations: @ktcommunityyoga.

Friday Night Film Series – Friday, March 28

Join us every other month on the last Friday for a thought-provoking and heart-opening film and discussion. Our next gathering will be on Friday, March 28 at 6:30pm. We will watch *The Color of Medicine: The Story of Homer G. Phillips Hospital*. This film documents the rise and fall of St. Louis, Missouri's premier black hospital that trained the largest number of Black doctors and nurses in the world from 1937 through 1979, before and after desegregation. Rachel Steinbrueck will lead our discussion. Pizza will be served. Please sign up in the back of the sanctuary so we have a count for pizza. On May 30, we will watch *Harper and Me*.

Saint Louis Chamber Chorus Concert at First Pres

Join us for Old Roots, Fresh Blooms on Sunday, April 6, 3:00pm. The early days of spring are hailed in seasonal songs from Dvorak, Mendelssohn, and E. J. Moeran. Composer-in-Residence Kerensa Briggs contributes a new work for the Chorus to collaborate with choir students from the St. Louis area. Join us for this special concert hosted in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian. Church members may contact Bill Perman for tickets.



EYC Scholarship Fund Trivia Night – Saturday April 12

Join us for a 90s Trivia Night to support the EYC Scholarship Fund! Doors open at 6:00 PM, and the game starts at 6:30 PM. Our goal is to raise \$7,000 to fund three summer camp scholarships, and we need 17 tables of 8 players to make it happen! Entry is \$25 per person or \$200 per table, with BYOB, plus refreshments and popcorn provided. We're also seeking silent auction items (gift cards, sports/theater tickets) to help raise \$2,000, and sponsors at \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 levels—each includes a free table, signage, and promotion. Scan the QR code to register!



Year at a Glance:

March 12, 6:30pm

Women's Horizons Bible Study

April 19, 10:00am

Easter Egg Hunt & Service Project

March 28, 6:30pm

Friday Night Film

April 26

Rebuilding Together St. Louis Build Day

March 31, 4:00–9:00pm

Dewey's Pizza EYC Give Back Night

May 11

Youth Sunday

April 1

Moms Demand Gun Action Advocacy Day in Jefferson City

June 8

Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday

April 6, 3:00pm

St. Louis Chamber Chorus Concert

September 19–21

Mound Ridge Retreat

April 12, 6:00pm

Early Years Center Trivia Night

January 31, 2026, 5:30pm

Welcome Home Dinner

April 17, 6:00pm

Maundy Thursday Church Family Dinner



WELCOME!

First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, a community of faith since 1817, is a More Light congregation - dedicated to our community of faith, welcoming people of every race; ethnicity; age; sex; physical, mental, or emotional condition; sexual or gender orientation; and economic, cultural, or religious background.

Church Staff

Rev. Bill Perman, Pastor
Marge Meier, Early Years Center Director
Sarah Butler, Church Office Administrator
Clay Butler, Audio Visual Technician
Hedy Rothfuss, Interim Music Director

7200 Delmar Blvd, University City MO 63130

www.firstpresbyterianstl.com

Church Office: 314-726-6677

Bill Perman email: bill@firstpres-stl.org

Church email: office@firstpres-stl.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Board of Deacons

Class of 2025: Katherine Chamberlain, Roger Chamberlain, Jill Schantz

Class of 2026: Rob Dodson, Nancy Kidd, Ruth Reese

Class of 2027: Mary Bryant, Jill Butler, Julie Griffin

Session

Class of 2025: Glenna Hughes, Sue Salvati, Genny Watkins

Class of 2026: Bruce Butler, Jeanne Foster, B. Terrell

Class of 2027: Jodie Burditt, Sarah Butler, Brad Schnell

Treasurer, Nancy Patten - treasurer@firstpres-stl.org

Clerk of Session, Andrew Loth - clerk@firstpres-stl.org

Music Resources reprinted for congregational worship in agreement with
OneLicense#A-708807