

***Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: Holy One, just as you show us the ways in which you wish us to live,

All: may you show us how to use these gifts of service and money to seek those who are lost,

Leader: to bring sight to the blind and to welcome those who are misguided in thinking

All: that they are beyond your love and forgiveness. So be it. Amen.

*** HYMN OF TRUST**

No. 280

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Come, O Lord and set us free;

Give your people peace.

Come, O Lord and set us free;

Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

*** POSTLUDE**

“Prelude in g minor”—J. Pachelbel

* The congregation may stand.

THE CONGREGATION’S MISSION:

“First Presbyterian Church of Red Wing is a congregation that seeks to grow in the love of Jesus Christ and to share that love with the community and the world.”

PARTICIPANTS

In Ministry	The Congregation
Choir Director	Peter Dulak
Pianist	Lynn Dulak
Organist	JoAnne McNamara
Pastor	The Rev. Greg Bolt
Pastor	The Rev. Heidi Bolt
Lay Leader	David Oakes

FRIENDS AND GUESTS: Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. May God’s presence be with us and God’s blessings be upon us as we worship together today. Please join us for refreshments at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (lower level).



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

503 West Sixth Street PH: 388-9584

March 19, 2017—10:30 a.m.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

“I am beginning now to see how radically the character of my spiritual journey will change when I no longer think of God as hiding and making it as difficult as possible for me to see him, but, instead, as the one who is looking for me while I am doing the hiding.”—Henri J.M. Nouwen, Return of the Prodigal Son

ORGAN PRELUDE

“Keep Us, Lord, to Your Word”—J. G. Walther

“I Am Coming to the Cross”—W. G. Fischer

“Lament”—R. Lau

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Holy One, we gather this day coming just as we are:

All: we are lost, waiting to be found, we are searching, hoping to rejoice.

Leader: Accept all we bring before you today.

All: Accept our worship we pray.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

No. 387

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

(Prayer Request cards are collected by the Usher.)

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

God our Shepherd, we confess that we often lose our way. Sometimes, we follow like sheep and end up in places that we should not be. At other times, we choose our own paths and end up hitting a dead end. In a moment of quiet, we bring before you those things we have done in our straying and ask that, in your mercy, you will bring us back on track. May we, like the Prodigal Son, come to ourselves. May we trust and follow you alone. May we listen and follow you alone. May we act after worshipping you alone this day. Amen.

***SILENT PRAYER**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Hear the Good News.

People: God hears us always, and knows what we need even when we do not.

Leader: Receive assurance of the Lord’s absolution, put your trust in the new covenant promised and guaranteed to us through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

***PRAYER RESPONSE - Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (insert)

Owen Jerrol Griffin

Son of Amanda and Dustin Griffin

Assisting Elder: Dean Massett

YOUTH DRAMA

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 119: 167-176 (read responsively)

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary”—arr. Camp Kirkland

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 15: 1-32

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Greg Bolt

***HYMN OF HOPE** “I’m Not Alone” (Insert)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from “A Brief Statement of Faith”)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Petitions

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

(p. 16 in hymnal)

Response

WORSHIP THROUGH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory: “Legende”—T. Loud

***Doxology**

No. 591

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Luke 15: 1-32 (cont'd.)

refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" 31Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES!

Clearwater offers amazing opportunities for people to find themselves – through retreats, family reunions, and of course camp! The opportunities to grow in faith, learn more about living in an intentional Christian community, and being part of a life-changing experience allows people to focus on what is important! We invite you to support our scholarship fund and help a camper have a significant life-changing experience. It's easy! Go to www.givemn.org, search for Clearwater and support our scholarship fund, or you can simply mail in a check with scholarship noted on the memo line. You can make a difference in a young person's life!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST PREZ HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK:

TODAY, 9:15 a.m. – Sunday School
10:30 a.m. -- Worship
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship
11:30 a.m. – Intra-Church Committee
Mon., 03/20, 10:00 a.m. – Coffee @ Mandy's Café
Tues., 03/21, 6:55 p.m. – JuBELLation Ringers
7:00 p.m. -- SESSION
Wed., 03/22, 6:15 a.m. – Men's Book Study
5:00 p.m. – **Lenten Service @St. Paul's Lutheran**
Thur., 03/23, 7:30 a.m. – Women's Book Study @ St. James

Psalm 119:167-176 (read responsively)

¹⁶⁷ My soul keeps your decrees;
I love them exceedingly.
¹⁶⁸ **I keep your precepts and decrees,
for all my ways are before you.**
¹⁶⁹ Let my cry come before you, O LORD;
give me understanding according to your word.
¹⁷⁰ **Let my supplication come before you;
deliver me according to your promise.**
¹⁷¹ My lips will pour forth praise,
because you teach me your statutes.
¹⁷² **My tongue will sing of your promise,
for all your commandments are right.**
¹⁷³ Let your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.
¹⁷⁴ **I long for your salvation, O LORD,
and your law is my delight.**
¹⁷⁵ Let me live that I may praise you,
and let your ordinances help me.
¹⁷⁶ **I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.**

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Blue Prayer Request cards may be completed and given to an usher or placed in the basket at the Sanctuary door

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT ED DISCUSSION GROUP... meets every **Sunday morning at 9:15** (until 10:00) in the Conference Room. Each week a different topic is discussed, based upon relating current events, life issues, or theological topics to Christian faith. Come by and join in to deepen, broaden, and refresh your faith in Christ.

GENTLE REMINDER: The coffee pot in the servery was left on last weekend and was not discovered until Monday morning. Please make sure that all appliances being used are turned off and properly cleaned before leaving.

GREETERS: Dolores Rootes
USHER: Mark Fairbairn
FLOWERS: Dean & Bev Massett in honor of their 62nd Anniversary
FELLOWSHIP: Sue Huber and Bonnie Lohmann

FOOD SHELF NEWS: March is Food Shelf Month! March's goal is to collect 75 cans of assorted fruit and/or oatmeal. February's total was 62 tubes of toothpaste, 6 toothbrushes and 2 miscellaneous items. Please leave your food items or donations on the shelf in the lounge. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity in helping others in need!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! If you are able to help out on Sunday mornings by either being an usher, greeter or lay leader, please let Susan Crocker (Usher coordinator), Bonnie Lohmann (Greeter coordinator), or Chris Rayner (Lay leader coordinator) know. Also, there is a sign-up sheet for hosting Fellowship located on the kiosk next to the flower calendar for anyone wishing to help out. Your help is much needed and greatly appreciated!

KIOSK: Please be sure to check the kiosk outside of the church office to see what events are taking place in the community, services that are provided by various groups in and around the Red Wing area, or to sign up for the flower calendar or to host Fellowship. Thank you!

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Lenten Bible Study

Join Pastor Heidi on Wednesdays during Lent at 6:30 p.m. for a Bible Study on Jesus and Our Possessions.

Explore your connection with material things this Lent. The six-session adult study challenges participants to better understand God's provision for our needs. Together we will ponder our attachment to possessions; grapple with the question, "how much is enough?"; and explore the risks and consequences of being too attached to possessions. We will also reflect on the act of giving and discover how it can make a positive impact in our lives. Childcare will be provided.

"I will walk by faith even when I cannot see." 2 Corinthians 5:7

Luke 15:1-27

15Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' 3 So he told them this parable: 4'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." 7Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance. 8 'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." 10Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.' 11 Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. 13A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" 20So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." 22But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 25 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound."