



faith & doubt

First Presbyterian Church 1573 N. Highland Avenue Jackson, TN 38301 731-422-1591 fpcjacksontn.org

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 22, 2026

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Lord God, Great I AM, you are resurrection and life. As we worship you this day, show us who we are: bearers of good news, messengers of resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES (*John 11:25-26*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life.

ALL: *Those who believe in Christ will never die.*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

Variations on a Hymn for Lent

Dale Wood

Stan Brunner

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Elder Steve Bowers

One: Some of us come to worship today, weary and worn, heavy with all the circumstances that are too much to bear alone.

ALL: *We gather to travel God's redemption road together.*

One: Some of us come to worship today, dry and thirsty, longing for relief and peace from the troubles that surround us.

ALL: *We gather to travel God's redemption road together.*

One: Some of us come to worship today with stories to tell of little resurrections, moments of new life that sprang up when we least expected them.

ALL: *We gather to travel God's redemption road together.*

One: Beloved, whatever we bring with us to worship today, God welcomes us and calls us to work together as we travel God's redemption road together. Let us pray.

ALL: *God of mercy, we come to you dry and lifeless, seeking your breath of life.*

One: Lead us to the place where our hopes lie buried and call us out from the tombs of despair.

ALL: *Call forth our faith that, with Martha, we may know you to be the resurrection and the life, in this world and the world to come. Amen.*

***HYMN: 834** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

PRECIOUS LORD

TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Healing and Empowering God, we are sometimes so sure that things will not work out, we doubt even your ability to put things right in our lives. We lack such faith. But Jesus came to show us that our most dreaded enemy--death--can be overcome by faith, for he is the resurrection and the life.

Forgive our faithlessness. Heal our doubts and our longings for assurance and give us spirits of trust and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: There is forgiveness and healing with God. God's steadfast love has the power to redeem our brokenness and make us whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, GtG #39

BUNESSAN

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

THE WORD

ANTHEM

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Leavitt

Chancel Choir | Helen Redding, Director

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM, *Hayes Overbey* (see insert)

HYMN: 486 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* (stanza 1)

KINGDOM

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,

With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

***HYMN: 468** *In My Life*

LORD, BE GLORIFIED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Steve Bowers

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *John 11:17-27 (pg. 105)*

Elder Steve Bowers

One: This is the word of God for the people of God **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *John 11:33-45 (pg. 105)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Do You Believe This?

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(The Apostle's Creed)*

Elder Steve Bowers

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

Elder Steve Bowers

OFFERTORY

Renew Me, O Eternal Light

Johann Gottfried Walther

Stan Brunner

*Doxology (Tune: 607)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Dedicatory Prayer

Elder Steve Bowers

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: 840** *When Peace like a River*

VILLE DU HAVRE

SENDING

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Jesus, Keep Me Near

Purchase

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

In the Cross I Glory

Ellen Jane Lorenz

Stan Brunner