



Order of Worship March 22, 2026

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Pastor Darin
INTROIT	<i>Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying</i>	No. 469
CALL TO WORSHIP		Pastor Darin
	<p>We gather to worship the God who hears our prayers. God listens when we cry out day and night. The Lord brings justice and mercy to all who trust in him. We will pray and not lose heart.</p>	
OPENING PRAYER		Pastor Darin
*HYMN	<i>10,000 Reasons</i>	
CALL TO CONFESSION		Rickie Espelien
PRAYER OF CONFESSION		Rickie Espelien
	<p>Merciful God, you invite us to bring every concern before you, yet we often neglect prayer. We grow impatient when answers do not come quickly, and we lose heart when justice seems delayed. Forgive us for our lack of faith and perseverance. Strengthen our trust in your goodness and teach us to pray faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>	
WORDS OF ASSURANCE		Rickie Espelien
	<p>In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.</p>	
*RESPONSE	<i>Amen</i>	No. 600
*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST		Pastor Darin
	<p>The grace and peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you.</p>	

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rickie Espelien

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 32:25-35

Rickie Espelien

²⁵ When Moses saw that the people were out of control (for Aaron had lost control of them, prompting derision among their enemies), ²⁶ then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, “Who is on the Lord’s side? Come to me!” And all the sons of Levi gathered around him. ²⁷ He said to them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Put your sword on your side, each of you! Go back and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill your brother, your friend, and your neighbor.” ²⁸ The sons of Levi did as Moses commanded, and about three thousand of the people fell on that day. ²⁹ Moses said, “Today you have been ordained for the service of the Lord, each one at the cost of a son or a brother, and so have brought a blessing on yourselves this day.”

³⁰ On the next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned a great sin. But now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” ³¹ So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Alas, this people has sinned a great sin; they have made for themselves gods of gold. ³² But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of the book that you have written.” ³³ But the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. ³⁴ But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; see, my angel shall go in front of you. Nevertheless, when the day for punishment comes, I will punish them for their sin.”

³⁵ Then the Lord sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf—the one that Aaron had made.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Darin

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 18:1-8

Pastor Darin

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Persevering in Prayer”

Pastor Darin

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles’ Creed, traditional

Pastor Darin

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at 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 life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN

Seek Ye First, the Kingdom of God

No. 175

WE GIVE OUR OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give
Prayer of Dedication

Rickie Espelien
Rickie Espelien

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Darin

*HYMN

What a Friend we Have in Jesus

No. 465

*BENEDICTION

Rickie Espelien

Go into the world with faith and perseverance.

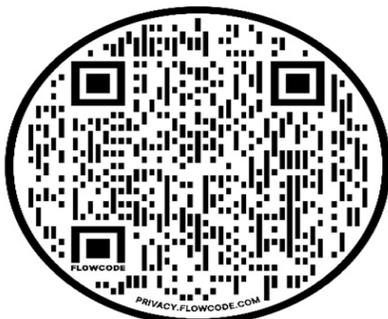
Pray without losing heart, trusting that God hears and responds in love and justice.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

Amen.

*POSTLUDE

*Indicates to stand in body or spirit.



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First Presbyterian Church Happenings

Serving Us Today March 22, 2026)

Rickie Espelien (Worship Leader), Joe/Stephanie Jacobs (Ushers), Stephanie Randolph (Greeter), Julia Owen and Ariel Yu (Nursery), John Scott, Jay Espelien, Patty Scott (AV), Kathy Arnold (Equal Exchange), Praise Team: Rachel Buchin,

Lenten Study

We meet after worship to discuss "An Unlikely Lent." We will meet in the library shortly after worship. Need a book. Stop by the library.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Food donations are once again being requested for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard during the month of March. Donations of non-perishable food products (please check expiration dates), health care items, and paper products may be brought to church through the end of March.

Easter Breakfast

Join us on Easter Sunday for Easter breakfast. Order forms are at the back of the Sanctuary.

Easter Flowers

There is still time to order Easter lilies and bulb gardens. Order forms are located on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

Easter Youth Outreach

Saturday, March 28 the Easter bunny is making an appearance at the youth Easter celebration. The fun starts at 10:30 a.m.

Sacrament Discussion

Do you have a child that is interested in learning about the sacrament of communion? We meet after worship next Sunday, Marh 29, to help children better understand the sacrament.

Calendar

Mon., March 23

7:00 pm - Focus on Recovery Group

Tues., March 24

9:00 am - Men's Bible Study

5:30 pm - LowerTown Rehearsal

Wed., March 25

9:15 am - Women's Bible Study

2:00 pm - Online Prayer Group

5:00 pm - Special Easter Choir

5:20 pm - CORE

Thurs., March 26

4:30 pm - Closer Walk

6:00 pm - Special Music Easter

Fri., March 27

7:00 am - Men's Bible Study

4:00 pm - Sewing Group (AWA)

Sat., March 28

10:30 am - Easter Youth Outreach

Sun., March 29

Palm Sunday

9:00 am - Children's Music

10:00 am - Worship Service