



First Presbyterian Church
PC (USA)
340 Fifth Avenue South
Saint Cloud, MN 56301

Telephone:
320-251-8277

Email/website:
admasst@fpcstcloud.org
www.fpcstcloud.org

Order of Worship
March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *Why Walk When You Can Fly* LowerTown
Don't Stop Praying LowerTown

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Darin

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor Darin

The season of Lent sets us on a journey.
The journey begins in the wilderness.
We follow the way of Jesus, who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.
Like Jesus, we are not alone. The Holy Spirit is with us.
Our call is to trust in God alone, to do God's will in all things.
For God leads us not only into the wilderness, but through it as well.

OPENING PRAYER Pastor Darin

*MUSIC *River of Life* LowerTown

CALL TO CONFESSION Carrie Butter

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Carrie Butter

O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you. We fall into temptation; we are swayed by false words; we speak false words of our own. We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world. Forgive us, we pray. Hear us as we call to you.

(Silence for individual reflection and confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS Carrie Butter

In Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

*RESPONSE *Alleluia* LowerTown

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Carrie Butter

The grace and peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Eye of the Storm* LowerTown

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Carrie Butter

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Carrie Butter

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.

⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Pastor Darin

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 4:1-13 Pastor Darin

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" ⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Preparation”

Pastor Darin

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles’ Creed, Ecumencial

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 arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

No. 12

WE GIVE OUR OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication



Carrie Butter

Carrie Butter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Darin

*MUSIC

Let Your Light Shine

LowerTown

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Darin

*POSTLUDE

*Indicates to stand in body or spirit.

Kids are welcome during worship. We have Faithful Friends—an area just off the sanctuary for younger children who want to remain with their families but find it difficult to sit for the service. Kids’ bags are also provided for help with children sitting in the pews. A nursery is provided for children under four.

Hearing devices are available from the sound desk.

We collect an **offering** each week. The offering, collected before and after worship, can be dropped in an offering plate located at the front and back of our sanctuary. You may also use the QR reader above.

Sermon outlines are provided at the back of our sanctuary.

The worship service is **livestreamed** on YouTube. You can join us again online or in person.

Name tags are provided in the pew rack in front of you.

First Presbyterian Church Happenings

Serving Us Today (Mar. 9)

Rev. Darin Seaman (Pastor), Carrie Butter (Worship Leader), John Bowden, John Detra (Ushers), Lynn Rae Olson, Carrie Raiche (Greeters), Lori Smith, Sara Rebeck (Nursery), LowerTown Project, Jullian Euteneuer (Musicians), Jay Espelien, John Scott, Karen Ondracek (Audio/Video), Betty Payne (Equal Exchange)

Lenten Study Opportunity (Mar. 9)

Tonight at 6:30 pm via Zoom we will be starting the Lenten Video Study, called *The Final Days*. You are welcome to join via zoom. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86926049131>

GIFT (Generations in Faith Together) Sunday (Mar. 16)

Come fellowship with us on March 16th after worship, we will meet in the Adam & Eve room (across from the restrooms downstairs). Join us for a fun and creative multi-generational Sunday School event as we celebrate the spirit of Easter! You'll have the opportunity to make your own Easter basket—perfect for a friend, grandkids, neighbors, or even for yourself! We'll provide all the supplies, including baskets and a variety of goodies. As we come together in fellowship, let's reflect on the blessings of this season and share the joy of Christ's love with those around us!

Community Meal (Mar. 19)

Join us in a community meal in support of our Youth Ministry. There will be hot dishes and dessert! A sign-up poster will be located in the main Entrance at the church. Dinner is served at 5:00 pm-6:30 pm.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard (All March)

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 dropped off at the church through the end of March. Cash donations in the form of a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church are also appreciated (please write "Food Shelf" in the memo line). Thank you for your support of this effort.

Easter Flowers Order Extension (Mar. 23)

The Easter flowers ordering has been extended to the 23rd of March. Please use the forms in the back of the sanctuary to order, and turn in to the Admin Office. Thank you!

Mon., March 10

11:00 am - NAPS
5:30 pm - Personnel Meeting
7:00 pm - Focus on Recovery Group

Tues., March 11

9:00 am - Men's Bible Study
3:00 pm - Mission & Social Witness Meeting
4:30 pm - Property Meeting
5:30 pm - LowerTown Rehearsal

Wed., March 12

9:15 am - Women's Bible Study
2:00 pm - Online Prayer Group
4:30 pm - Chancel Choir
6:00 pm - Ring! Bell Choir Rehearsal

Calendar

Thur., March 13

2:00 pm - Closer Walk Men's Rehearsal

Fri., March 14

7:00 am - Men's Bible Study

Sun., March 16

9:00 am - Sunday School
10:00 am - Worship
11:00 am - GIFT Sunday (Easter Baskets)