First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 6, 2025 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE Adagio for Strings Samuel Barber, arr. Wm. Strickland

Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS Earth Care Team Nicholette Rogers

CHORAL INTROIT When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ROCKINGHAM

*CALL TO WORSHIP + Diana Rice

One: We come to worship because we long for mercy.

All: We long for community. We long for God.

One: We come to worship because we need a good word.

All: We need connection. We need moral reminders.
One: We come to worship because we are in between:

All: Hope and Grief, Faith and Doubt, Joy and Longing, Curiosity, and Conviction.

One: So, we come to worship and God meets us here. Surely, we are not alone.

All: Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen

*PRAYER

Loving God, as people called to seek justice in our time and place, sometimes we forget that call also includes practicing care and humility. In our efforts to live better and do right by one another, we all have the right to start somewhere . . . Change and transformation can happen anywhere and at any time. May we be reminded that your Spirit nudges us to become learners and grow, rather than become hardened and bitter. Help us dwell in the space between accountability and compassion, justice and grace, righteousness and mercy. Humbly we pray.

Amen

*HYMN 31 Let Us with a Gladsome Mind

MONKLAND

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: Friends, our faith calls us to live with both mercy and righteousness. Somewhere along the way, however, we have forgotten that truth. Somewhere along the way, we began arguing about who deserves mercy and whether or not they had acted with enough righteousness to receive it. Fortunately, God does not act that way. No matter what mistakes we have made or wrong turns we've taken, God consistently meets us with mercy and invites us to try again.

So let us lean into that good news, and go to God in prayer:

All: Merciful God, when we fail to be righteous, show us mercy.

When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right.

Again and again, bring us closer to you.

Again and again, show us the way.

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

Gracious God, hear our prayers. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:

When we fail to be righteous, God is merciful.

When we fail to be merciful, God invites us to try again.

Again and again, God moves closer to us.

Again and again, God shows us the way.

Thanks be to God for this unending love. Amen

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Amy Baxstrom

ANTHEM Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee

(text: St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th Century)

SCRIPTURE Luke 19:1-10 Pew Bible page 77

SERMON Reverend Erin Guzmán, Henry J. Copeland Interfaith Chaplain, College of Wooster

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY Andante un poco Adagio, from 'Clarinet Sonata I in f-moll' Johannes Brahms

Paul Zito, clarinet and Eric Gastier, piano

*Doxology 607

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

MINISTRY FOCUS One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering Diana Rice

*HYMN 515 *I Come with Joy* DOVE OF PEACE

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Allegro, from 'Organ Concerto in d-moll' G. F. Handel

- * Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand. ~ Opening Prayer written by Rev. Erin Guzmán.
- + Used with permission from A Sanctified Art, LLC.

Chancel Flowers are given today by Mimi Lewellen in gratefulness for the beauty of the earth.

First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community dedicated to showing God's love through worship, study, social justice, outreach, and fellowship.

More Light Church and Member of Covenant Network Earth Care Congregation and Matthew 25 Church

The Mission of More Light Presbyterians: Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

The Mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace. We are called to achieve this goal by furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, and by working for the unity of the PC(USA).

Earth Care Pledge: Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

The Mission of the Matthew 25 Church: Matthew 25:31–46 calls us to actively engage the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. We commit ourselves to congregational vitality by acting boldly and compassionately to end systemic poverty and structural racism, serving people who are oppressed, imprisoned, poor.

QR (Quick Response) Code for Direct Donations and Contributions – the Code can be read by your smartphone and will land you on the giving page of our website, where you can "Give Now" or set up a recurring donation.

330-264-9420 www.firstpreswooster.org Facebook: facebook.com/FPCWooster

Sunday Greeters: April 6 – Nigel & Anne Brush April 13 – Rick & Deb Zeiters Maxwell

Sunday Ushers: April 6 – Kris Evans, Tim Fair, April Gamble, Mimi Lewellen Sunday Sexton: April 6 – Megan Armour April 13 – Elli Gordon

Sunday, April 6 8:45 am ARISE 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship

Monday, April 7 11:30 am Men's Lunch 12:00 pm Rotary 1:30 pm Admin Staff

6:00 pm WACPAC Auditions 7:00 pm Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, April 8 9:30 am Bible Study 6:00 pm WACPAC 6:00 pm Scouts Wednesday, April 9 10:00 am Memory Café 5:30 pm Faith & Practice 7:00 pm Earth Care

Thursday, April 10 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Book Group 7:30 pm Great Decisions Lecture

Friday, April 11 10:45 am WC Parkinson's Group

Saturday, April 12 9:30 am Al-Anon 10:00 am WACPAC 11:00 am Wooster Advocacy

Palm Sunday, April 13 8:45 am ARISE 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship

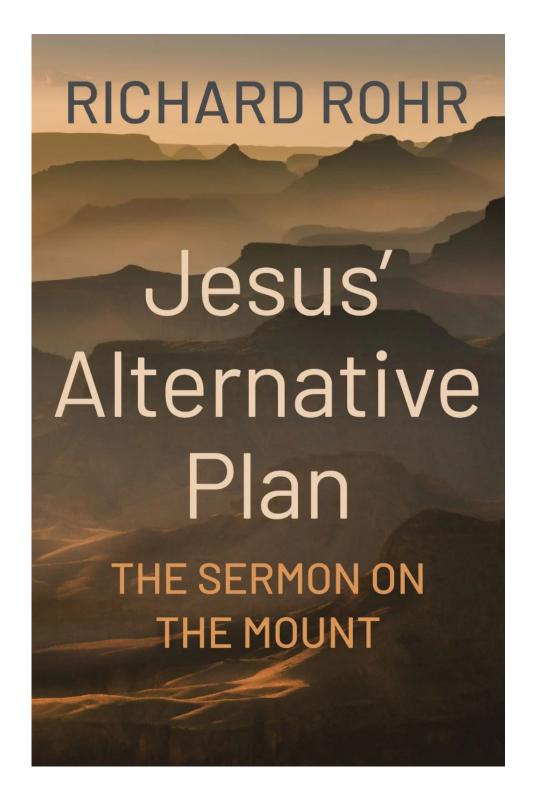
Donna Bye – Office Administrator

Amy Baxstrom – Director of Family Ministries

Rachel King – Director of Children's Music and Church Media Coordinator

Tim Hall – Building Supervisor

Final Great Decisions Lecture in Gault Recital Hall, College of Wooster, at 7:30 pm on Thursday, April 10: The Geopolitics of the Energy Transition.



The Adult Education class will begin a study on the Sermon on the Mount through the book titled "Jesus' Alternative Plan" by Richard Rohr.

Copies can be purchased online but are not necessary.