

March 19th, 2023
10:00 A.M.



First United Presbyterian Church

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PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls,

People: **for we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.**

Leader: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways,

People: **for we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.**

Leader: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend out hearts,

People: **for we have not only witnessed forgiveness, we have felt its power. O come, let us worship the Lord!**

***OPENING IN SONG W&R #260**

The Old Rugged Cross

CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree that we might die to sins and live for righteousness. By his wounds we are healed. Let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly father,

Thank you for blessing us with a new day. Remind us of the hope found in your promises. Remind us again that your promises are trustworthy and true. Thank you for walking with us on this difficult road we face and for giving us each other in the body of Christ as a support and comfort along the way. Give us strength and hope with each step that we might not forget that we are neither alone nor unloved. Thank you for seeing us and responding with your good and perfect gifts. Forgive us when we forget your grace. Forgive us when we grieve you. Forgive us when we take those you have put into our lives for granted. Forgive us when we doubt your promises. Shower us with peace, hope, and joy as we lean into your forgiveness this morning. In Jesus' name, amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from Ephesians 2)**

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together in Christ. By his surpassing grace we have been saved!

Thanks be to God!

EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRaising IN SONG *CSfW 17*

Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food of your holy Word.

Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in your likeness;

That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes for your glory.

Insert
W&R #374

Trading My Sorrows
Refiner's Fire

WE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 PETER 4:12-19

SERMON: "TRIAL BY FIRE"
Pastor Ben

HYMN OF RESPONSE W&R #664 Thy Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS
OFFERTORY

*SONG OF DEDICATION W&R #34
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
*CLOSING HYMN W&R #253 Lead Me to Calvary

*CHARGE & BLESSING
POSTLUDE

Announcements

Income Update for 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

	GFM	Target	Surplus/(Deficit)	% of Budget

February	\$32,324	\$21,512	\$10,812	150%
FYTD	\$162,779	\$172,097	(\$17,895)	95%

The remaining mortgage balance is \$135,897
Capital campaign fund balance: \$23,207

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Those awaiting test results
- Those battling cancer.
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Pray for the end of civil war in Cameroon.
- Those battling terminal illness.

Choir!

If you would like to be a part of the choir, we are meeting again next week at 9AM!

Adult Sunday School Class

What Was Accomplished for us in Christ's Death & Resurrection?

In this new Sunday School Class, we will focus on what actually happened in Jesus' death and resurrection, the implications, and why they even matter. Please join us for the coming weeks as we dive into the reality behind why we celebrate Easter!

Disaster Relief Donations

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Hygiene Kits are a way to provide for some basic needs when people are struggling after a disaster, such as an earthquake or hurricane or war. Are you able to provide some of the needed items, such as bar soap, wash cloths, or toothbrushes? See Betty Trembly (617-955-7638) for details. We will collect all items by April 16, and assemble the kits April 23.

Freedom Concert Fundraiser for Route One

Friday April 1 at 6 PM, Route One Ministry is holding their annual Freedom Concert fundraiser at Christ the King Presbyterian Church in Cambridge. Admission is free. There will be food, music by hip-hop artist Caleb McCoy, and a survivor's testimony. Register at freedomconcert2023.Eventbrite.com.

Godly Response to Abuse Training

Wednesday May 3, 11 AM - 1 PM, GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment) is teaching abuse prevention training for faith community leaders at the bookstore More Than Words, 242 East Berkeley St. in Boston. A free lunch will be served. RSVP at <https://forms.gle/xvmuKyeJf3DqQ4A19>.

1 Peter 4:12-19

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And,

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Trading my Sorrows

[Chorus]

I'm trading my sorrows
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord
I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my pain
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord

[PostChorus]

We say yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord
Amen

[Verse]

I am pressed, but not crushed, persecuted not abandoned
Struck down, but not destroyed
I am blessed beyond the curse for His promise will endure
That His joy's gonna be my strength

[Pre-Chorus]

Though the sorrow may last for the night
His joy comes with the morning

[Chorus]