

4th Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2003

**Gathering around God's Word**

PRELUDE: "Prelude" on *Lobe Den Herron*..... Alice Parker  
(Christy Floyd, Organist/Pianist)

WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP ..... Fred Coates

MINUTE FOR MISSION..... Thermond Thompson and Scott Vaughn

PRESENTATION OF EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 107:1-2, 21-22)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble...**

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

**And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Lift High the Cross" ..... No. 287

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**A world of pain is near to us, compassionate God, but we admit to keeping a safe distance. We live in a perpetual state of hurry and a numbing tiredness that keeps the blinders up and the heart protected. Excuses are easily shaped and we can always find a more pressing project. We are ever tempted just to walk slowly away, turn the page, switch off the heart. Yet the gospel call echoes in our being... to proclaim release to the captive, to feed the hungry and care for the disadvantaged. We know that You choose us to answer. Strengthen the resolve of our will and the work of our hands that we may eagerly take up the holy tasks of love and embrace all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*RESPONSE: "I Come to the Cross" ..... No. 251

**Proclaiming God's Word**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Numbers 21:4-9 (page 137, pew Bible)

\*HYMN: "To God Be the Glory"..... No. 66

GOSPEL LESSON: John 3:14-21 (page 89, pew Bible)

(8:30 a.m.) Walt Jones; (11:00 a.m.) Tom Church

SERMON: *The Summons: Come to the Cross*

4. "From Indictment" ..... Fred Coates

**Responding to God's Word**

\*HYMN: "The Summons" (verse 3 – soloist/choir; verse 4 – congregation)..... No. 350

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(adapted from the *Book of Confessions*, PCUSA, The Confession of 1967)

**The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in people as sin in the sight of God. In sin people claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and their fellow human beings, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation.**

**Wise and virtuous people through the ages have sought the highest good in devotion to freedom, justice, peace, truth, and beauty. Yet all human virtue, when seen in the**

**light of God's love in Jesus Christ, is found to be infected by self-interest and hostility. All people, good and bad alike, are in the wrong before God and helpless without his forgiveness. Thus all people fall under God's judgment. No one is more subject to that judgment than the one who assumes guiltlessness before God or morally superiority to others.**

**God's love never changes. Against all who oppose Him, God expresses His love in wrath. In the same love, God took on Himself judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring all people to repentance and new life.**

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ANTHEM: (8:30 a.m.) "Via Dolorosa" ..... Sprague and Borop  
(LuAnne Sledge, Soloist)

(11:00 a.m.) "Be Thou My Vision"..... arr. Alice Parker  
(Chancel Choir)

\*DOXOLOGY: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" ..... No. 34

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION..... (8:30 a.m.) Jim McDonnell; (11:00 a.m.) Larry Eddleman

**Bearing God's Word into the World**

\*BENEDICTION

\*HYMN: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"..... No. 88

POSTLUDE: "Recessional" ..... Frank Asper

Cassette tapes of the service are available at the sound console located at the rear of the sanctuary.

Guests: Welcome to First Presbyterian on this fourth Sunday in Lent. If you need a church home, we invite you to unite with our congregation. Please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad.

**The flowers** in the sanctuary today are given by Dick and Mary Fortanbary to the glory of God and in honor of Kyle Carpenter on the occasion of his receiving the Eagle Scout Award.

**Eagle Scout Award:** Kyle Benton Carpenter, a member of Troop 166 sponsored by First Presbyterian, will receive Boy Scouting's highest award today. Son of Jimmy and Janie Carpenter of our congregation, Kyle is a freshman at Mooresville High School. Kyle's Eagle Service Project was the landscaping around the new handicap entrance at Central United Methodist Church of Mooresville.

**Lenten Bible Study:** Fred Coates is leading a study of the Gospel of Mark, entitled *Marked for Life*, each Thursday through April 10, from 7:30-8:30 p.m., in the church parlor. Invite a friend to attend with you. A love offering for the teacher will be received on April 10.

**Lenten Schedule:** Brochures containing information about our church's Lenten activities are at the rear of the sanctuary and in the church office.

**Daylight saving** time will begin next Sunday, April 6. Reset your clock forward so you will be on time for church!

## *Calendar and Announcements*

- Sunday: 9:45 a.m. - Church School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
7:30 p.m. - Witness and Service Committee in Room 315
- Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Troop 166  
7:00 p.m. - Small Group, "Breaking Free," with Liz Price
- Tuesday: 3:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers  
5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club  
6:15 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers  
7:00 p.m. - Cub Scout Pack 166
- Wednesday: 4:00 p.m. - Logos/Middle School Ministry  
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir
- Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - Through the Bible Study  
3:30 p.m. - Genesis Ringers  
7:30 p.m. - Lenten Bible Study in the Parlor
- Friday: 10:30 a.m. - Parenting study in the Library
- Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - Promise Keepers in the Library  
1:00 p.m. - Confirmation Class leaves for retreat at Camp Grier

**Logos Choir:** The Logos Choir (grades 1-6) will have a rehearsal for the musical *Paul & Co.* this Saturday, April 5, from 10:00 a.m. until noon in the fellowship hall. All participants are encouraged to attend this important rehearsal.

**Dinner Theater:** The entire congregation is invited to a fellowship supper next Sunday, April 6, in the fellowship hall. Prepared by hostess Ann Manning and Circles No. 4 and 5, the supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. for \$3 for adults and youth, \$2 for children. Following the meal, the Logos Choir will present the musical *Paul & Co.* A nursery for small children will be provided during the musical. Come and enjoy the food, music and fellowship.

**Birth:** Congratulations are extended to Amber and Jared Odom, 1161 Braxton Drive, Concord, NC 28025, into whose home was born a daughter, Alissa Lauren Odom, on January 20.

**Dr. Lewis** is preaching and baptizing granddaughter Charlotte Elizabeth Lewis today at Emory Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA.

**Next week on the fifth Sunday in Lent:** *The Summons: Come to the Cross, 5.* "From Desolation," based on John 12:20-33.

**The 2003 International Mission Conference** sponsored by Salem Presbytery will be held on Saturday, April 12, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Greensboro. The Rev. Harold Kurtz of Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship will be the keynote speaker, and a variety of workshops will be held. Come, see and hear what God is doing and how you can be involved. Brochures are at the rear of the sanctuary and at the church office.

**Baptism** is next scheduled for Easter, April 20. If you desire the sacrament for yourself and/or your children, please inform the church office as soon as possible.

**Assistive hearing devices** are available for persons with hearing difficulties. The devices may be obtained from and returned to the soundboard at the rear of the sanctuary.



## First Presbyterian Church

249 West McLelland Avenue  
Mooresville, North Carolina