

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

March 18, 2007

11:00 A.M.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP..... The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor

- Welcome and Friendship Pads
Announcements
Invocation

PRELUDE: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross..... Parry
Joanne Daykin, Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN: Rejoice, the Lord Is King.....No. 342

*CONFESSION AND PARDON..... The Rev. Dr. Fred Coates, Associate Pastor

- Call to Confession
Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Jesus Christ we pray; Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: ...Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

*RESPONSE: At the Cross (Refrain).....No. 258

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away, it was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day!

ANTHEM: Gimme A Sign from "Giddyup, Giddalong Gideon"..... Noel
Logos Choir; Nell Herring, soloist

CHILDREN'S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 11:1-10.....Pew Bible, p.609
Cathy Irwin, Reader

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

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 rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN: And Can It Be.....No. 366

PASTORAL PRAYER 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 TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Offertory: How Firm a Foundation.....arr: Parker

Chancel Choir

*Doxology: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow..... No. 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.

*Prayer of Dedication

SERMON

Matthew 16:13-17 (Insert)

Living on Your Growing Edge: Discipleship with the Apostle Peter Sermon Series

"When You Finally Get It Right"

Dr. Brown

*HYMN: Christ the Eternal Lord (Verses 1,2,3).....No. 335

INVITATION AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE: Christ the Eternal Lord (Verses 4,5).....No. 335

POSTLUDE: O God, Thou Faithful God..... Brahms

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* Those who are able will please stand.

If you are our guest today, welcome to First Presbyterian! We're so glad you're worshiping with us. For more information, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and speak with one of the pastors following the service. God bless you! Please return to worship with us again.

You can become a member of First Presbyterian TODAY by your profession of faith, transfer of church membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Elders from the Session meet after every service to receive new members. Please speak with Fred Coates, our associate pastor, in the Parlor following today's service.

Recordings of the 11:00 a.m. service are available at the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of Martha Westmoreland by her daughter, Donna Brawley.

Announcements

Lenten Sermon Series—“Living on Your Growing Edge: Discipleship with the Apostle Peter.” The sermons preached during Lent will connect with the Scriptures our “Lent in the Living Room” groups will be discussing and will follow a specific theme. This year’s theme is “Living on Your Growing Edge: Discipleship with the Apostle Peter.” What is your growing edge? It is that place in life where God is working with you most to shape and mold your character more and more into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Here are the sermons and Scripture passages our pastors will preach during Lent.

- 4th Sun. of Lent, Mar. 18:** “*When You Finally Get It Right,*” *Matthew 16:13-17.*
- 5th Sun. of Lent, Mar. 25:** “*When You Have Nowhere Else to Turn,*” *John 6:60-69.*
- 6th Sun. of Lent, Apr. 1 (Palm Sun.):** “*When You’ve Blown It,*” *Matthew 26:30-35, 69-75.*

A wonderful way for you to prepare for each sermon in this transformational series is to read the Scripture passage for Sunday before you come to worship and then to participate in a “Lent in the Living Room” small group to discuss the passage during the week. Information on the groups may be found in the bulletin insert. Come to worship ready to hear God’s Word shared, explained, and applied to our lives.

Needed: Help to deliver arranged flowers to our shut-ins at their homes or nursing homes. Your reward: Appreciation from the recipients. This small gesture means so much to them. Please call the church office (704-664-5275) and say, “Count on me.”

Volunteers for “Step Two”: “Step Two” is a one-time, one-hour conversation with new members about how they may become involved and “plug in” at FPC usually held during the Church School hour. We need caring, relational people to help our new members become connected to our church community. If you sense God’s leadership to be a “Step Two” volunteer, please contact Dr. Brown.

Maundy Thursday Church Supper with Tenebrae and Communion Service April 5: You are encouraged to attend a Maundy Thursday fellowship supper at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This day takes its name from the new “mandate” Jesus gave his disciples to “love one another” and from the institution of the Lord’s Supper to be done “in remembrance of me.” After supper we will worship together, beginning at about 7:15 p.m., featuring the celebration of Holy Communion and a service of Tenebrae. Tenebrae means darkness, and during the service the lights are extinguished to commemorate the suffering and death of Christ. Childcare will be provided for preschoolers during the worship service. Plan to be a part of this special evening for food, fellowship, and inspiration as we dine with Jesus and walk with him to the cross, preparing for the celebration of Easter.

Leadership Retreat March 30-31: We will host a Leadership Retreat at our church on Friday, March 30, 7:00-9:30 p.m., and Saturday, March 31, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The purpose is to provide a shared, common knowledge base about the state of the Presbyterian Church USA for all our church officers. All ordained elders and deacons of our church, not just current Session and Diaconate members, are invited to participate. Church officers from Lake Norman Fellowship and Centre Presbyterian churches will also attend. We have sent letters to those we have on our database, but we know we do not have all ordained officers listed. So if you’re an ordained elder or deacon and interested in attending, please RSVP through the church office no later than Wednesday, March 28.

Logos Musical Participants: All Logos Choir (grades 1-6) members should be at the church at 5:00 p.m. tonight to make final preparations for the musical. The choir will eat supper prior to the musical; children should bring \$2.

Announcements are continued on back of insert...



11:00 a.m. Worship
First Presbyterian Church

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooresville, North Carolina

The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him...

Habakkuk 2:20

Calendar

Sunday 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
5:15 p.m. - Alpha & Omega PYF
6:00 p.m. - Diaconate
7:00 p.m. - Logos Musical and Dessert
Lent in the Living Room

Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts in the Scout building
7:00 p.m. - Executive Committee
- Lent in the Living Room

Tuesday: **Newsletter Deadline**
5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Subway
6:00 p.m. - Brownies in Room 219
6:30 p.m. - Cub Scout Pack 166
7:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
Lent in the Living Room

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Fronnie Gardner
4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM – *Creepy Crawlies Night*
5:00 p.m. - Kairos
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir
Lent in the Living Room

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Harding & Peggy Rogers
7:00 p.m. - Skate Park meeting
Lent in the Living Room

Saturday: 6:00 p.m. - Logos Trip participants meet at the church

Sunday 3/25: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship with Logos Choir
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
4:15 p.m. - Alpha PYF
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Announcements (continued)

Christian sympathy is expressed to Eliza Good in the death of her younger sister on March 12.

Saints Alive Luncheon: The monthly Saints Alive luncheon will be held this Tuesday, March 20, at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall (\$4). The program will be presented by Quincy Collins, a retired Air Force colonel and former Vietnam POW who spent over 7 years in prison cells in and around Hanoi. Currently, Mr. Collins lives in Charlotte and works as a commercial real estate broker. All “senior” adults are encouraged to attend.

Logos Trip: The Logos Choir trip is scheduled for this Saturday, March 24 – Sunday, March 25. Please contact Valerie Mauney (704-663-7540) to register for the trip and/or to volunteer as a chaperone. Cost of the trip is \$30.

March “MAD”ness: We are coming in to the final “stretch” of March “MADness” (March Attendance Dash) where church school classes are working toward increasing class attendance and participation by 30%. Keep up the good work and attendance, and invite your friends and fellow church members to attend a church school class. Church school classes are held each Sunday for all ages, birth through adult, from 9:45-10:40 a.m.

Recent Prayer Requests: Eddie Miller for upcoming cataract surgery on March 27; Martha Andrews; Eliza Good; Pat & Jeep Hunter’s son; John Smith; Dr. William Wood, Tim Wood’s father; Terry Stevens; Anne Lowe; Bob Lytle; John McClure; Capt. Scott Goodrich, U.S. Army, Iraq (nephew of Sue Kopecek) and Laban Thompson and shipmates on the USS Guardian.

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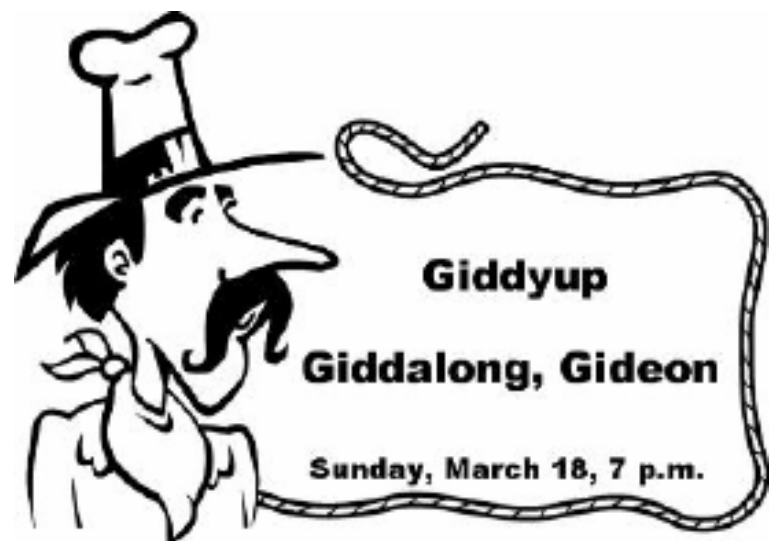
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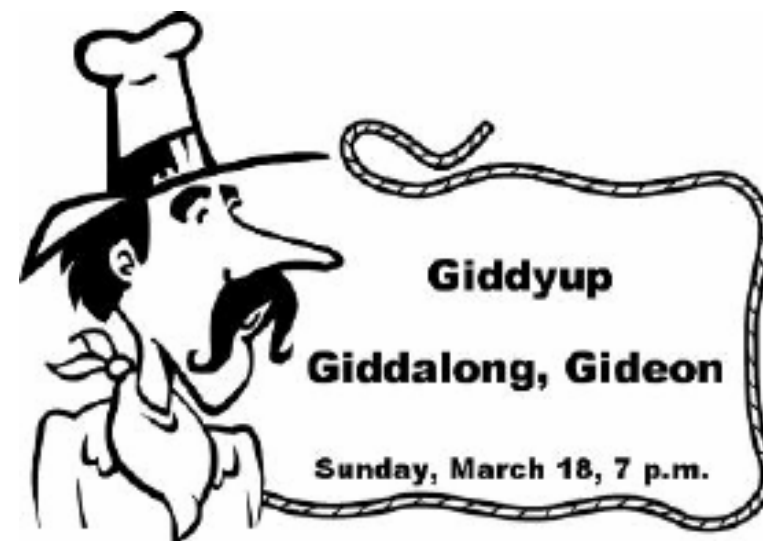
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and dessert in the Fellowship Hall!**



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SERMON TEXT

Matthew 16:13-17 (ESV)

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

SERMON OUTLINE

“When You Finally Get It Right”

I. THE QUESTION EVERYBODY’S ASKING...

II. THE QUESTION EVERYBODY MUST ASK...

III. THE ANSWER ONLY GOD CAN PROVIDE...

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