

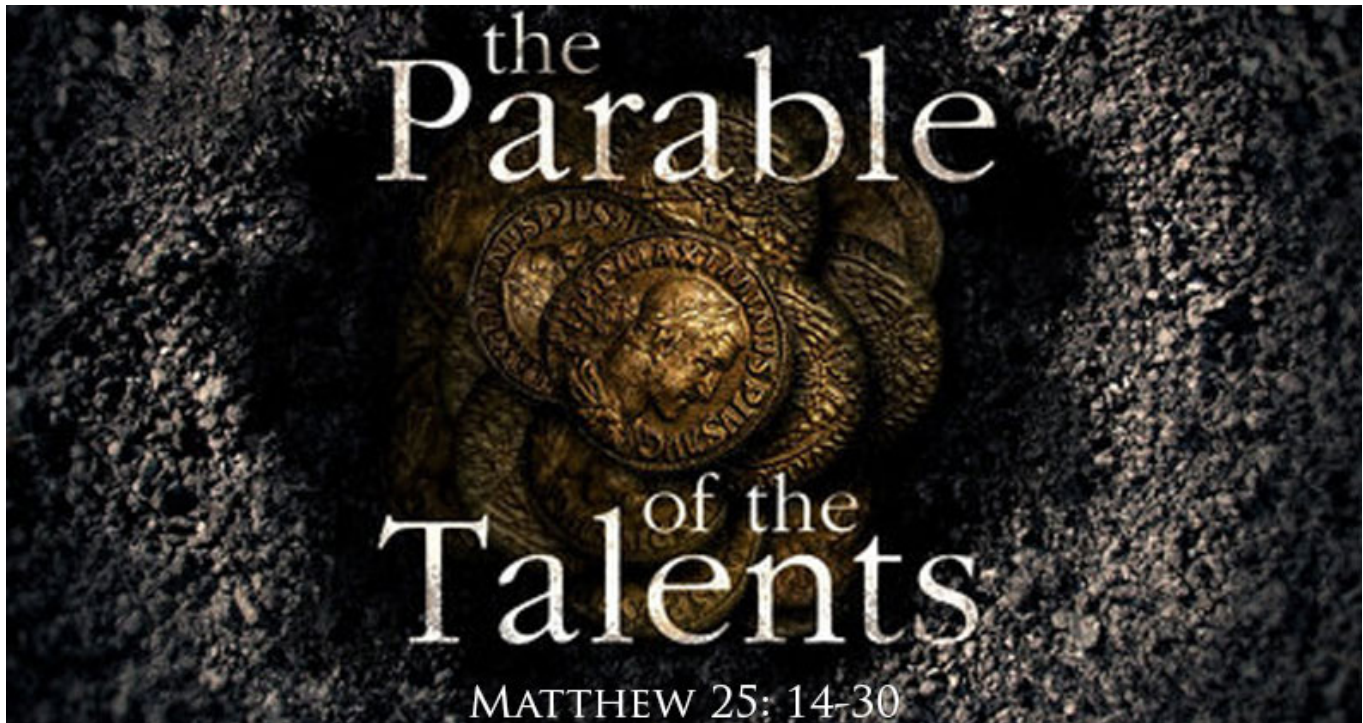
November 19, 2023

First Presbyterian Church

As you settle into your seat please take a moment to reflect and feel God's presence.
Take a moment to consider these words of contemplation:

Quiet Meditation:

Over the centuries, many forms of Christianity have become religions of fear. But Christianity wasn't always like that. It began as a nonviolent peace movement, a community known for love, a community gathered around a table of fellowship and reconciliation, a people armed with the basin and towel of service, not the bomb and gun of violence. - CAC



Take a seat...make a friend! You are our honored guest! Whether you are seeking a church home, invited by a friend, or just passing through, we pray that worship today is a blessing that inspires you and strengthens your faith. You will find Pastor Lorrie's contact information on the back of the bulletin, should you want more information about FPC and our ministries.

FYI: The women's restroom is diagonally across from Fellowship Hall's main entrance. To find the men's room turn left when exiting fellowship hall and turn right at the bulletin board. The restroom is on the right.

As a kindness, please silence all technology at the start of today's worship.

Child care is available in the Nursery located down the inner stairs and to the right near the end of the hall.

- * Please stand in body or in spirit when indicated by this symbol.
Please remain seated and read (sing) together when the print is bold.

Today's flowers are Given to the Glory of God and In Memory of Loved Ones by Eileen Harding

Remember Today is Thanks for Giving Sunday. You can return your cards to the basket at the entrance of Fellowship Hall, and we invite you to stay after the Congregational Meeting for a light lunch.

Deacon of the Week: Sandy Earl

There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately following worship TODAY. Items discussed and voted on will be Terms of Call, Slate of Officer Candidates. The budget will be presented but not voted upon.

Celebrate His Love

Welcome

Centering Notes

Prayer of Blessing

* **Song of Praise-*Morning Has Broken*- Bulletin Insert**
from PCUSA Glory to God Hymnal

Sign of Peace

Prayer of Humility

(please read audibly together)

Merciful God, forgive us when we invest our energies into increasing our personal prosperity rather than enriching people's lives with the good news of Jesus Christ. And when we squander our gifts by failing to use them to build people up. Forgive us when we conceal the wideness of Your mercy by our lack of compassionate behavior. Forgive us when we fail to be adventurous in spreading the gospel. Increase our capacity to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and in deed even if this means taking risks and expending whatever energy we may have. Help us to hear Jesus' words addressed to us about being eager to share the spiritual treasure that we have, knowing that as we do, more, much more, will be given. Hear us now as we silently confess our sins to You. In Christ Jesus I ask these things...Amen and Amen.

(Please take a few moments for your own personal confession.)

Assurance of God's Love (John Calvin)

"God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up..." (1 Thess. 5:9-11) in the knowledge that in Jesus Christ we are enriched, we are loved, we are forgiven.

(Please join in reading together)

Through the waters of baptism

we have died with Christ and are raised with Him.

With gratitude and with faith,

we will walk the way of Christ. And this is the Good News of the Gospel-
that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!!

* **Responding to God in Praise-*We Are Forgiven*-Bulletin Insert**
from PCUSA Glory to God Hymnal

Going Deeper

Scripture Reading

Read by Wendy Hutchison

These readings are from New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Hebrew Bible: Judges 4: 1-7

Paul's Letters to the 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Scriptural Response-*Give Thanks*-Celebration Hymnal # 170

(please remain seated)

Prayer of Light

Matthew 25: 14-30

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Meditation on the Word

*** Song of Hope-*More Love to Thee* -Celebration Hymnal # 634**

Dedication of Gifts and *Pastoral Prayer*

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 and ever! Amen.

Carry His Light to the World

*** Song of Peace-*Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated*-(Verses 1, 3, 5 & 6 only) Celebration Hymnal # 597**

Charge and Benediction

Please Offer a Prayer for: (Prayer requests will remain on this list for two weeks unless otherwise requested.)

...Health/Rehab etc: Judy Z., Dan S., Heather W., Nancy B., Dan R., Julie C., Nancy B., The Richards Family, The Meeders, Denise E., John W., Lisa K., Emily J., Harriet S., Ruth W., Annie H., Chuck, Josephine & Ed
...Remember our Homebound members: Mike Ramsey, Jim Rugh, Tom Rohan, Lois Greene Sellers, Joan Richards, Eileen Harding, Dorothy Black, Carolyn Moody, Darlene Cubellis, (*temporarily homebound members: Octavia P. and Lisa J.*)
...All victims & families of the mass shootings to date in 2023 in the US
...Our glorious planet earth and the need to address climate change
...The People of Israel and the faultless residents of the Gaza Strip; the People in Ukraine and the faultless residents of Russia;
ALL VICTIMS of wars
...This month's Mission of the Month: Shenango on the Green

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We Know What You Did and Thank you

Behind the scenes there are always folks lending a hand to make things happen..

-to Leslie Stone and all the many helpers who have been cleaning pews and walls and painting and doing more than can be mentioned in preparation to a return to the sanctuary

-to Finance Committee for prayerfully and thoughtfully putting together the 2024 Budget and to the Nominating Committee for their earnest work to create a slate of officers

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available at the entrance to Fellowship Hall. We hope you will read each day's message as we journey to Christmas!

Thank you to Annie Hines who will be covering Pastoral calls while Pastor Lorrie and Daniel are away. She may be reached at 724-698-8380 should a need arise.

This Week's Church Calendar

Sunday, November 19: 9 AM-Christian Ed. Classes,

10 AM-Worship followed by Fellowship,

Monday, November 20: 9-3 -Recreation Center Open

Tuesday, November 21: 9-4 Office Open,

9-3 Recreation Center Open

Wednesday, November 22: Office Closed

Thursday, November 23: Happy Thanksgiving

Office Closed

Sunday, November 26: 9 AM-Christian Ed. Classes,

10 AM-Worship followed by Fellowship

Rev. John Creekpaum-Guest Preacher



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