

# First Presbyterian Church

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Today's Spiritual is "No Hiding Place Down Here." The words for this song come from the book of Revelation, chapter 6. Those verses describe the futility of human efforts to try to hide from God. In Revelation, the people trying to hide are the evildoers, who are willing to seek shelter even under rocks that are falling on them in order to escape God's judgment. In our own context, we might hear this song as a reminder that we will not ever escape the harsh experiences of this world while we are living. We may try to hide, even escape from hardship in ways that are destructive, but the truth is that war, violence, and cruelty are ever-present. What is also the truth is that as Christians, we trust always that God's goodness and grace are also ever-present. So while there indeed may be "no hiding place," we know that we rest in the promise of God, who shelters us with love and mercy. Psalm 17 cries out to God, "Watch me with the very pupil of your eye! Hide me in the protection of your wings, away from the wicked who are out to get me, away from my deadly enemies who are all around me!" and as we hear in today's Gospel lesson, Jesus yearns to do exactly that.



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Christina Berry

Ministers - All the People

March 13, 2022

## God's People Gather

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Response I Want Jesus To Walk With Me

\*Opening Song Earth is Aching

**Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we know that even on our best days, we cannot possibly grasp the depth and breadth of your being. And we know that even on our best days, we can never do enough to be worthy of your grace. But we also know that you love us extravagantly, whether we deserve it or not. So we ask your forgiveness for all the times when our actions have broken your heart; we ask your forgiveness for all the times when our failure to act has brought others pain. Change our hearts, O God, and redirect our steps, so that all along our journey we will walk in the way you would have us go. We ask in the name of the one who loves us enough to die for us.

*Silence is kept*

**Assurance of Pardon** (Ephesians 2:4-5, CEB)

Leader: God is rich in mercy, and brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. God did this because of the great love that God has for us. You are saved by God's grace!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

\*Response Peace Song

## God's Word is Proclaimed

Children's Time

Scripture Readings Luke 13:31-35

Sermon A Bird's Eye View

**Responding to God's Word**

Statement of Belief Apostles' Creed

Offering

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

**God's People Are Sent**

\*Closing Song Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

**\*Benediction**

Leader: And let all God's People say...

**People: Alleluia, Amen!**

\*Response Walk With Me This Day, Lord

Postlude

