



First Presbyterian Church

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The mission of historic First Church is to bring diverse people of metropolitan Buffalo together to follow Jesus Christ through worshipping God, fostering spiritual growth, and serving the community.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 24, 2019

*Wherever ♦ appears, you are asked to stand if you are able to do so.
Text in **bold print** indicates congregational responses.*

PRELUDE

Prelude on *Wareham*

Healey Willan

Prelude on *St. Philip*

Healey Willan

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

CHORAL INTROIT

*The Lord hath visited and redeemed us.
O come, O come, let us adore him. Let us adore him.*

♦CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of our ancestors heard our cries and saw our oppression
when we were slaves in Egypt.

**God brought us out with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,
with signs and wonders God brought us through the wilderness.**

The Lord, our shelter, our refuge, our dwelling place, says,
When my people call to me, I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble; I will show them my salvation.

Let us worship the Lord!

♦HYMN 210

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

St. Anne

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Elder Lucas Lloyd

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

God Most High, thank you for signs of your power and grace, shown to us even in the wilderness. Give us courage to stand firm in your Word in every time of trial and testing, that we may enter the land of your freedom and receive the salvation you so generously give; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND PARDON

We bring our confession before the One who is more powerful than Pharaoh in Egypt,
mightier than the devil in the wilderness.

(sung) **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Let us pray:

O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you. We fall to temptation; we are swayed by false words; we speak false words of our own. We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Do not let us be put to shame, O God. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. Amen.

Scripture declares the Lord is generous to all who call on God's name. Friends, believe the good news: God does not turn away from us, but desires to bring us into the glorious freedom offered in Jesus Christ. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Thanks be to God!

◇CANTICLE

“Glory to the Father”

Richard Wetzel

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now, and forever. Amen.**

◇PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

In Jesus Christ we know God's forgiveness and peace! Let us share that peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

ANTHEM

As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams

arr. Crawford Thoburn

As pants the hart for cooling streams when heated by the chase, so longs my soul, O God, for Thee, and Thy refreshing grace. For Thee, my God, the living God, my thirsty soul doth pine; O when shall I behold Thy face, Thou majesty divine? Why restless, why cast down, my soul? Trust God, who will employ His aid to thee, and change those sighs to thankful hymns of joy. God of my strength, how long shall I like one forgotten mourn, Forlorn, forsaken, and exposed to my oppressor's scorn? Why restless, why cast down, my soul? Hope still, and thou shalt sing the praise of Him who is thy God, thy health's eternal spring.
—from Psalm 42 (King James' Version)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 80, selected verses

OT pages 540-541

SERMON

“When All Hell Breaks Loose”

Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Hughes

◇HYMN 261

“God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us”

O Quanta Qualia

◇AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God of the wilderness and of exile, we gather these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

OFFERTORY

Wondrous Love

Michael Sitton

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul. To God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing. When I was sinking down, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on
—American folk hymn, c. 1835

◇DOXOLOGY 591

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

◇PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In bringing forth these offerings, we do so in hope, knowing You can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; may we live with generous hearts, with open hands. **Amen.**

◇HYMN: 81

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

St. Flavian

◇CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude & Fugue in E minor

J. S. Bach



Household Prayer: Morning

Gracious God, this new day carries the potential for growth and new life. Help me to attend to those things in me that need care and attention. Sow your word in me that I may grow in faithfulness and understanding. Shake me out of dull routines, so that I may take part in the good news you continue to tell urgently and passionately. In Christ's name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

As I lie down this night in the shadow of your wings, God of my life, I know that you will be with me even as you have helped me through this day. Whether I am weary from the day, or whether the day has been a rich feast of blessings, I give thanks for your power and glory, which are present in every circumstance. As I give myself over to rest and sleep, I remember that your steadfast love is better than life. So, I pray, surround me with your love tonight and always. In the peace of Christ I pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019

Today's liturgist is Olga Rico-Armesto.

FRONT PAGE NEWS:

BUILDING THE BUZZ ABOUT BUFFALO

An interactive presentation and discussion with Brian Hayden, Communications Manager with Visit Buffalo Niagara

Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel

Word is finally getting out about America's best kept secret—Buffalo—but the media coverage that has appeared nationally and internationally over the last few years hasn't just occurred by happenstance. Visit Buffalo Niagara's Communications Manager, Brian Hayden, will share the behind-the-scenes role Erie County's tourism promotion agency plays in pitching and hosting media and generating positive coverage about Buffalo far beyond the Queen City.

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available; beer and wine for a nominal charge. All attendees will automatically be entered into a raffle drawing for enticing items such as a year membership to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, a \$100 gift certificate for fine dining at Mother's, two overnight stays at the luxury boutique hotel InnBuffalo (a childhood home of Roch Harmon), Explore Buffalo tour passes, a framed poster of the church tower, and stereoviews of historic Buffalo. Join us for this exciting evening, and bring a friend!

MID-WEEK LENT SERVICES

Wednesdays, March 27, April 3, 10, 17

12:00 PM - Dr. Hughes will conduct a brief worship and prayer service in the Chapel

12:30 PM - Elder Maria Oakley will offer a quiet space for prayer and contemplation.

A light meal will be available.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

First Church members and friends are invited to a continental breakfast at 10:00 AM on Palm Sunday, April 14 in the Chapel. Bagels, muffins, fruit and other treats from Bagel Jay's will be available. Palms and helpers will also be available for those who want to make palm crosses. Hosted by the Deacons.

BOOK GROUP

Thursday, March 28 at 6:00 PM

at Ilsa Cooper's home

Book to discuss: "The Hidden Life of Trees" by Peter Wohlleben & Tim Flannery

Please bring a dish to share for a potluck meal.

THE HOW, WHAT, & WHY OF PRESBYTERIANISM

The unofficial motto of First Church is "Historic & Alive!" That would work as a slogan for the Presbyterian denomination as well.

We are indeed a historic faith tradition, with our roots in the early stages of the Protestant Reformation. "Alive" applies as well— whether you're talking about the Presbyterian shaping of the birth of our nation, its profound influence on the development of the country in ensuing centuries, or its "thought leadership" among American Christians today.

That is the backdrop to the five-week course led by Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes that will be offered on Mondays at 6:30 PM, through April 8. The class will cover a good share of history and denominational structure and practice, but the emphasis will be on what Presbyterians believe, and why.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Rev. Ken is assigning all First Church members and friends homework for the week. If you are a user of Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter, be sure to “like” or follow the church’s pages.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/1stChurchBuffalo

Instagram: @1stchurchbfl

Twitter: @1stchurchbfl

You’ll want to get an A on this assignment when you see what’s in store on our social media pages coming up.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl ministry group meets Mondays at 6:30 PM at the Eggertsville-Snyder Library (4622 Main St. in Snyder just past Harlem Rd.) Anyone is welcome, and yarn can be provided.

JOYS & CONCERNS

- Keisha experiencing cardiac issues
- Debbie D. in rehab for injuries from a fall
- Victims of the New Zealand mosque shootings
- Kyle Bradford recovering from back surgery
- Sharon B. recovering from a hip replacement
- Ellen S. in declining health
- A young woman who needs deliverance from a very bad situation.
- Dale B., recovering from a traumatic brain injury.
- José Gomez
- Roch Harmon at Autumn View in Hamburg
- Pat Harmon
- Susan Cummings
- Alan McCausland
- Jeff Wichtowski
- John Burgess at HighPointe on Michigan
- Bob Kerwin at home
- Elaine Tinch
- Ramona Brown
- Asylum seekers at the Mexican border, especially those families who are separated.

FIRST CHURCH STAFF LIST

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CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 24

11:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Lent
Worship, Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes preaching — Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Sunday school — Classrooms
12:00 p.m. Fellowship time — Narthex
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Parking lot in use for Kleinhans event

Monday, March 25

6:30 p.m. **Presbyterian Beliefs Class 3 — Pastor's Study**
6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Group at Eggertsville-Snyder Library

Tuesday, March 26

12:30 p.m. Food Bag Assistance — Historical Hall
7:30 p.m. Friends of Harmony rehearsal — Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 27

10:00 a.m. Staff meeting — Pastor's Study
12:00 p.m. **Mid-Week Lent Service — Chapel**
4:30 p.m. Literacy tutoring — Chapel

Thursday, March 28

3:00-7:00 p.m. Native Offerings Crop Share pickup — Chapel
6:00 p.m. **Book Group gathering at Ilsa Cooper's home**

Friday, March 29

No events

Saturday, March 30

No events

Sunday, March 31

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Nametag Sunday
11:00 a.m. Worship, Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes preaching — Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Sunday school — Classrooms
12:00 p.m. Fellowship time — Narthex
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Parking lot in use for Kleinhans event

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM



Order deadline
Palm Sunday,
April 14

Help decorate the sanctuary with flowers on Easter,
and take the opportunity to honor a loved one.

NAME _____

PHONE OR EMAIL _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS _____ @ \$8.00 EACH TOTAL \$ _____

DEDICATION

Dedications will be printed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Flowers will be a variety of lilies, tulips, daffodils and other spring plants.

- I will take my flower(s) on Easter Sunday.
- Please use my flower(s) for the church gardens.
- Please donate my plant to our homebound members.
- I volunteer to deliver my flower to a homebound member.

Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and
indicate "Easter flowers" in the memo.

CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE CONGREGATIONAL POLL



Buffalo
Philharmonic
Orchestra

M&T Bank
Classics

2018|19

Richard Danielpour's
The Passion of Yeshua
JoAnn Falletta, *conductor*
Hila Plitmann, *soprano*
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus
Sat Apr 13, 8pm
Sun Apr 14, 2:30pm

Kleinhans Music Hall

East Coast Premiere Composed for the BPO by internationally-renowned, award-winning American composer and educator Richard Danielpour, *The Passion of Yeshua* is a full-length, dramatic oratorio for chorus, orchestra, and four soloists that explores the last twelve hours of Jesus' life. What makes the work unique is that it is assembled from both Hebrew and English texts, and includes the seldom heard voices of women including Mother Mary and Mary Magdeline. To quote Danielpour, "Ultimately one of the goals of this piece has been to bring people together in a constructive, intelligent, and civilized dialogue about faith."

One hour prior to the performances you can hear directly from the artists in "Musically Speaking," hosted by JoAnn Falletta

Are you interested in seeing this BPO performance? Yes No

If yes, what is your primary choice of date: Sat., 4/13 @ 8 PM Sun., 4/14 @ 2:30 PM

Name: _____ Phone or email: _____

Please put this form in the offering plate. Speak to Elder Jean Hess with any questions.