

The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent • The Sacrament of Holy Baptism  
Sunday, March 24, 2019 • 10 AM • Rev. Drew Harrison

**For Prayer & Contemplation** (Langston Hughes)

Out of love,  
No regrets—  
Though the goodness  
Be wasted forever.

Out of love,  
No regrets—  
Though the return  
Be never.

**Welcome & Sharing Information** Please sign the Fellowship Pad.

**Prelude** “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want” - arr. Ashdown

**Call to Worship** (Adapted from Psalm 30 by Michael Morgan)

One: Sing to God, that all may hear you!  
**All: God, whose healing arms can lift and save;**  
One: By thy healing touch, revive us,  
**All: Life restore beyond the grave.**  
One: Praise we now our sure salvation,  
**All: God, the holy One above,**  
One: End the night so dimmed by anguish,  
**All: With the sunrise of your love.**

**Blessing Over the Water**

\***Hymn No. 445** “God How Can We Forgive”

**Prayer of Confession**

God of mercy,  
you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.  
We confess that we have strayed from you  
and turned aside from your way.  
We are misled by pride,  
for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,  
and great when we are small.  
We have failed in love,  
neglected justice,  
and ignored your truth.  
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of  
righteousness  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Moment of Silence**

**Kyrie**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: Behold, there is water in the font.  
**All: We have been baptized in water and welcomed by the Spirit.**  
One: A voice calls from the heavens!  
**All: “You are my child. You are beloved. I am well pleased.”**  
One: Let us proclaim the hope of our baptism together:  
**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, loved, and made whole. Thanks be to God!**

**\*Passing of Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.  
**All: And also with you.**

**Anthem** Tyler Bell Choir – “Followers of the Lamb” - arr. Rodgers

**Time with Children** (Dismissal to Sunday School)

(Children will return during final hymn.)  
Pastor: It is time for you to depart.  
**Adults: God be with you there.**  
**Children: God be with you here.**

**Baptism** Annabel Claire Gianfortune  
Daughter of Kevin & Elizabeth Gianfortune  
Assisted by Elder Kathie Daly

**Scripture**

- |    |                       |         |         |
|----|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| 1. | 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 | NT 181  | LP 221  |
| 2. | Luke 15:11-32         | NT 78-9 | LP 95-6 |

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Sermon** “The Prodigal Father” — Rev. Drew Harrison

\***Affirmation of Faith** (From A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God’s image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God’s commandments.  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth,  
exploit neighbor and nature...

and threaten death to the  
planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God’s condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant  
people to bless all families of the earth.  
Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.  
Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her  
nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the  
prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory** “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling” - arr. Cherwien

\***Doxology No. 606**

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.

\***Unison Prayer of Dedication** (Thom Schuman)

As we offer our gifts and lives in this moment,  
may we become imitators of you, Gracious God,  
who holds nothing back from us,  
but is generous and gracious with all that is yours.  
In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

**The Prayers of the People**

**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 forever.  
Amen.

\***Hymn No. 418** “Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling”

\***Benediction**

\***Benediction Hymn No. 541** “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”  
(verse 2) “God, be with you till we meet again; unseen wings protecting  
hide you, daily mana still provide you: God be with you till we meet  
again.”

**Postlude** “God, How Can We Forgive” - arr. Decker

\*\*\*\*\* **Please stand as you are able.** \*\*\*\*\*



# The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman

*“God’s Open House”*

10 Wildwood Avenue  
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office@pitmanpres.org

Thank you to our Worship Servers	
<b>Acolyte</b>	
<b>Liturgist</b>	Betsy Wriggins
<b>Greeter</b>	Judy Reed
<b>Ushers</b>	Denny Meudt, Pat Meudt, Carol Schoepske, John Fitzpatrick
<b>Tellers</b>	Carol Schoepske, Terri Lovelace, John Fitzpatrick
<b>Coffee Hour Hosts</b>	The Patterson Family

This Week’s Calendar March 24 to 31	
<i>Sunday</i> March 24	<b>10 AM</b> Worship <b>11:15 AM</b> Stephen Ministry – Upstairs Kitchen *No Sunshine Singers Rehearsal Today* <b>5 PM</b> Jazz Vespers – Sanctuary/Social Hall
<i>Monday</i> March 25	<b>6 PM</b> Liturgical Music Meeting – Upstairs Kitchen <b>7:15 PM</b> Worship Committee – Upstairs Kitchen
<i>Tuesday</i> March 26	
<i>Wednesday</i> March 27	<b>8 AM</b> Trustees – Upstairs Kitchen
<i>Thursday</i> March 28	<b>7 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal <b>8 PM</b> Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
<i>Friday</i> March 29	
<i>Saturday</i> March 30	<b>10:30 AM</b> Youth Group Nerfapoolooza
<i>Sunday</i> March 31	<b>10 AM</b> Worship <b>11:15 AM</b> Sunshine Singers – Music Room <b>2 PM</b> Congregational Life Sunday – Hammonton Presbyterian



**Sanctuary Flowers**

Today’s beautiful Sanctuary Flowers are in honor of Annabel Gianfortune, given by Kathie Daly.





**Music Notes**

Today’s prelude is Franklin Ashdown’s 2018 setting of the hymn tune “Crimond,” which was originally written by Jessie Seymour Irvine in 1872. The postlude is Pamela Decker’s 2016 arrangement of the Hebrew melody “Leoni.” The anthem is a Shaker hymn adapted for handbells by Sharon Elery Rodgers. We thank the Tyler Bell Choir and Jordan Riggs for sharing special music with us this morning.

This Week’s Birthdays	
<b>March 25</b>	Jennifer Russell
<b>March 26</b>	Stephanie Lai
<b>March 27</b>	Pastor Drew
<b>March 31</b>	Meri Reed
<b>March 31</b>	John Gallo



*Sunday Worship Service @ 10 AM*

-  Communion on the first Sunday of the month
-  Sunday School each week from 10:20-11:05 AM