



*Prodigal Son, 1950\**

## ***Service for the Lord's Day***

**March 30, 2025  
Fourth Sunday in Lent**

### ***Gathering Around the Word of Worship***

**Gathering Music**

Mike Kanan

**Striking of the Hour**

**Prelude**

*Wo soll ich fliehen hin, BWV 694*

*J. S. Bach*

**Welcome**

***We Rise in Spirit and in Body***

**Call to Worship** (responsive)

based on Isaiah 43:19-21

Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.**

Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

**We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!**

## Call to Confession

## Prayer of Adoration and Confession (unison)

O Christ, Savior, like the seed fallen to the ground, you suffered death. United to you, our lives will bear much fruit. In your love you took upon yourself our sins; innocent, you accepted death to free us from death. We praise you, Lord. God of mercy, who longs to gather us in the wide embrace of love, we confess that we have been wayward children. We have disobeyed your commands; our ears have been deaf to your call; our hearts have been cold to your love. In thought, in word, and in deed we have hurt others and dishonored your name. In your great mercy receive us yet again as your well-beloved children, not because we are worthy but for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

*Silence is observed for Personal Confession*

## Confessional Anthem

KYRIE

*Lord, have mercy upon us,  
Christ, have mercy upon us,  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

## Declaration of Good News (responsive)

Jesus extends his love to the sinners and outcasts, he extends his love to us all. Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**May Christ be ever praised and glorified. Amen!**

## Passing the Peace of Christ (responsive)

In Christ God has reconciled the world to himself. The reconciliation and peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## A Time with Young Christians (children welcomed to the front of the sanctuary)

***Hearing the Word***

*All Sit*

## Prayer for Illumination (unison)

**God of call, God of transformation, God of the Lenten journey, help us to discern your still, small voice. Open us to change and growth, that we may walk with Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading (responsive)

Psalm 32

**Reader 1:** Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

**Reader 2:** While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

**Congregation:** **Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD', and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

- Reader 1:** Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
- Reader 2:** I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.
- Congregation:** **Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

**Anthem**                      *When He Died Upon the Tree*      Trad. English Round/arr. Patrick Liebergen  
Megan Puckett, oboe

*All Stand*

### **Gospel Reading**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

All Sit  
**Sermon**

*Prodigal Love*

Kyle Otterbein

## ***Responding to the Word***

All Stand  
**Response Hymn 137**

*He Came Down*

HE CAME DOWN

**Affirmation of Faith** (unison)

from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 54

**I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member.**

All Sit  
**Offering**  
*Call to Offering*

**Offertory**

*Show Me Thy Ways*  
(Psalm 25: 4,5)

Walter L. Pelz

Megan Puckett, oboe    Wayne Pope, guitar

All Stand  
**Doxology**

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison)

**God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. Amen.**

All Sit  
**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**  
*A Moment of Silence*

*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*

## ***Bearing and Following the Word into the Created World***

All Stand  
**Closing Hymn 623**

*I've Got Peace like a River*

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Praeambulum*

Anonymous (*Die Lüneburger Orgeltabulatur*)

.....  
\*The Prodigal Son, 1950. Building: Chapel of the Prodigal. Object Function: Mural. City/Town: Montreat.  
State: North Carolina

[illegible]

**USHERS:** Kernohan and Hines families

**COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE:** Keelin Murrell, Johnna Smith, Aletheia Burt, Mack Overfelt, Wyatt Edmonds and Jeremiah Simpson

**LAY READER:** Claire Ellington and Maddie Davenport

**MEDIA PERSONNEL:** Laura Parkerson

**NURSERY:** Alisia Simmons, Yamilet Bruno Sanchez

**LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY APRIL 6:** Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b–14; John 12:1–8.

### **TODAY**

**DEACON OF THE WEEK** this week will be Georgeanna Capito. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** will meet today at 9:15 a.m. It will conclude an hour later in time for 10:30 a.m. church service.

**TODAY'S GUEST MUSICIAN** Megan Pucket, oboist, is wife to Troy and mother to Dean and J.T. She is in her 15th year of teaching in public schools as well as 20 plus years of teaching private students. Megan holds a Bachelor Degree in Music Ed (oboe) and Master Degree in Music Education (choral, voice) from WKU. She and Wayne have performed together in recitals including the acclaimed *Trinity Recital Series* in New Orleans. An accomplished pianist, she will serve as accompanist for the District SSA Honors Choir of 120 junior high girls which Wayne will conduct in May. Prayers are appreciated. We welcome Megan back to TPC and are grateful for her talents and are happy to have her with us today and in the future. Thanks, Megan.

**“SAVOR THE FLAVOR”** of a Meet-Up today! Join Kyle and LeAnn Otterbein and others as we go to Franklin Presbyterian Church immediately after worship today. We are heading to enjoy a home-made Guatemalan food at their “Savor the Flavor of Guatemala” fundraiser. We can have fun meeting our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Franklin, eat good food, and support Franklin’s projects for Living Waters for the World (which also happens to be one of our missions!). Event begins at 12:30 pm and donations will be accepted.

**THE AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP** will attend the “Savor the Flavor of Guatemala” today at Franklin Presbyterian Church. The group will resume lunch on April 6 at Anna's Greek Restaurant, 1202 State Street

### **COMING UP:**

**LENTEN DINNER AND PROGRAM** On Wednesday, April 2, the church will present an evening Lenten dinner and program in Fellowship Hall. Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by the program. The menu for the Lenten dinner is meatloaf, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, rolls, peach cobbler for dessert. Members who plan to attend dinner can RSVP by contacting Robin in the church office by phone or email. This is suggested in order for us to plan for attendance numbers.



**THE PRESBYTERIAN COOKING CLUB** Welcomes new members to come join their small group as they help prepare Lenten dinners featuring entrees such as poppy seed chicken, million-dollar spaghetti, Wanda's meatloaf, and chicken cordon bleu casserole. We will gather in the church kitchen at 4:00 p.m. on April 2, 9, and 16. We enjoy lots of conversation mixed in with the chopping, slicing, and dicing! You can participate for as many sessions as fit your schedule. Call the church office or contact Mary Evans at [maryameliaevans@gmail.com](mailto:maryameliaevans@gmail.com) (270-791-7205) to express your interest.

## **OTHER NEWS**

**SATURDAY MEALS** On April 5, we need two people to participate in the Saturday Meals cleaning day. The time is 8-10 am and will be held at First Baptist Church.

Please contact Susan Thomison at [Susan.thomison1@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.thomison1@gmail.com) or call 270-791-6950 if you would like to volunteer.

**ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** will be Saturday April 12th, 10:30am at the home of Fred and Debbie Trickey (807 Highland Way). All children up through 5th grade welcome! Separate hunting areas for Preschool and Elementary. We will have a cake walk, games, crafts and more! Invite your friends with children/grandchildren to join us! Rainy weather will move us to the church. If you would like to donate individually wrapped candy for our eggs or items for the cake walk, please bring it to the church office. For more information speak to Mary Evans.

**SIXTH ANNUAL GIVEAWAY** Cecelia Memorial will be taking donations for the upcoming 6th Annual Giveaway!! They will be accepting anything from clothing to household items to toys. The date for the event will be May 10. Thank you for your help in advance.

**FELLOWSHIP PICNIC** Plan to join us on Sunday, May 18 for our Fellowship Picnic. There will be plenty of food, fun, and fellowship. More information will be available at a later date.

**LAY READERS NEEDED FOR MAY/JUNE** A signup page is online for lay readers in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve one Sunday, please scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date. Lay reader information will be emailed on the Friday prior to the date. Thank you!



**NEWSLETTER FOLDERS/SEALERS** A signup page is online for upcoming months for Newsletter folders/sealers. If you are willing to volunteer to help in the office with this task, scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date, contact Robin by phone at 270-843-4707, or email at [info@bgpres.org](mailto:info@bgpres.org).



## WELCOME VISITORS!

*We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by the minister, officers, and congregation.*

**Clerk of Session:** Debbie Trickey    **Treasurer:** Steve Moore

**Elders:** Class of 2025- Karol Kirby Ahmed, Buzz English, Pamela Napier, Julia Roberts, Julie Wedge; Class of 2026- Pam Bratcher, Rachel Crocker, J.B. Hines, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan; Class of 2027-Sam Evans, Nathan Love, Susan Thomison, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden  
**Deacons:** Class of 2025- Barbara Brindle, Craig Long, Teri Polen, Ernie Small, Dan Stelling, Fred Trickey; Class of 2026- Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Brianna Trickey; Class of 2027-Trudy Burkeen, Georgeanna Capito, Sally Calkins, Nancy Carwell, Evan Goad, Frederica Kernohan

## The Presbyterian Church Staff

*Transitional Pastor  
Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director  
Children's Music Director  
Organist  
Financial Administrator  
Treasurer  
Office Coordinator  
Director, Preschool Learning Center  
Custodian  
Clerk of Session  
Sound Attendant/Sunday Sexton*

*Rev. Kyle Otterbein  
Dr. Wayne Pope  
Mrs. Beth Pope  
Dr. Nathaniel Brown  
Mrs. Terry Johnson  
Mr. Steve Moore  
Mrs. Robin Watkins Tolbert  
Ms. Kimberly Watkins  
Mr. Cedric Whitney  
Mrs. Debbie Trickey  
Ms. Laura Parkerson*

### Calendar

#### Sunday, Mar 30

8:30 a.m. Fellowship  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
9:15 a.m. Children's Music  
9:45 a.m. Godly Play  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
12:30 p.m. "Savor the Flavor of Guatemala"  
Franklin Presbyterian Church

#### Monday, Mar 31

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love

#### Tuesday, Apr 1

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11:00 a.m. Special Care

#### Wednesday, Apr 2

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group  
5:15 p.m. Chancel Choir  
6:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner & Program

#### Friday, Apr 4

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group

**Visit Our Church Website:** <https://bgpres.org>



**Donate Online:** The church website, <https://bgpres.org/give>, accepts online donations. Just go to our website, <https://bgpres.org/give>, and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You may also scan this QR code:



**The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101**

270-843-4707 • [www.bgpres.org](http://www.bgpres.org)

**Pastor Kyle Otterbein • [kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org](mailto:kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org) • 319-400-6546**