



Sunday, March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of **BELLA VISTA**

1880 Forest Hills Blvd.
Bella Vista, Arkansas 72715

(479) 855-2390 www.pcbv.org
E-mail: pcbvoffice@pcbv.org

LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

LITURGIST

Gail Cowdin

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Bud Clark

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Gail Knudsen and Sandy Andrews

Chancel Choir

Sandy Bachelder, Betty Bennett, Arlene Biebesheimer, Jerry Biebesheimer, Marcia Beard, Bud Clark, Christy Clark, Dick Francis, Gail Knudsen, Elaine McGuire, Sharry McGuire, Peggy McMenus, Jean Nichols, Mary Nimis-Tysk, David Riter, Gary Harris, Edie Harris, Martha Stout, Karen Watson, Brenda Works, Jim Works

Bell Choir

Arlene Beibesheimer, Gail Cowdin, Rosie Floyd, Gail Knudsen, Florence Riter, Michelle Schall, Cathie Whittenberger, Sharon Warner, Karen Watson, Fran Zimmermann

WELCOME DESK

LeRae Bean

HEAD USHER

Buddy Needham

USHERS/GREETERS

Dan Dovell, Dan Johnson, Buddy Needham, Nancy Ortman, Frank Taylor

COFFEE HOSTS

Shepherd Group 5

Delores Jennings and Dan Dovell

AUDIO/VISUAL

Tom Hackleman,

Steve Little, Jim Watson

A SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

An asterisk () indicates that those who are able may stand;
Bold type — please respond in unison.*

WE GATHER AND PREPARE OUR HEARTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

- ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

PRELUDE *“Chorale”* (from “Finlandia”) Jean Sibelius
(duet—Sandy Andrews—piano and Gail Knudsen—organ)

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of this day,
Cultivate in us a spirit of worship—
**Hearts that pray, Ears that hear,
Eyes that see, Minds that believe.**
God of this space,
Cultivate in us a spirit of worship—
**Letting go of distractions
And fears, Isolation And doubt.**
God of this day,
Cultivate in us a spirit of worship—
For you are love, our new beginning,
And we will always need that.
Let us worship Holy God. Amen.

*HYMN #15

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Scripture promises us that no matter how far we stray from God's ways, when we make the decision to return to God, God runs to greet us with open arms. Trusting in the never-failing mercy of the Lord, let us turn to God together by confessing our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God,

We are works in progress.

In spaces where we could cultivate belonging, we build up walls.

In spaces where we could cultivate compassion, we insist on perfection and pressure ourselves to achieve the impossible.

In spaces where we could let go of anger, we keep score like it's our job and insist on an "eye for an eye" justice.

So today we pray—

Remind us how to cultivate hope, love, and justice.

Remind us how to let go of fear, perfection, and hatred.

Forgive us. Guide us. Heal us.

Gratefully we pray,

Amen.

(Moment of silence for personal confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Psalm 32 says: "Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are those happy people whose sins have been forgiven. Believe in the good news of the gospel and rejoice!

THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(Please take this opportunity to “pass the peace” to those around you.)

*GLORIA PATRI #581

WE ENCOUNTER THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, your mercy is wide, but our understanding is limited. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, open our minds and our hearts, that your good news may reach the deepest places within us. Renew us in your forgiving love and enliven our imaginations to possibilities for sharing that love with others. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 5:13-15

¹³ Once when Joshua was by Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing before him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you one of us or one of our adversaries?” ¹⁴ He replied, “Neither, but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and he said to him, “What do you command your servant, my lord?” ¹⁵ The commander of the army of the LORD said to Joshua, “Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy.” And Joshua did so.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 32:1-7

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² **Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is not deceit.**

³ While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of the summer.**

⁵ 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.

⁶ **Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of
distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are hiding a place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

ANTHEM

"I Thank You, Lord"

Joseph Martin

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-3 & 11b-32

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable:

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region,

who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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.’ ²² 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. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² 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.’ ”

SERMON

*“Cultivating Reconciliation and
Letting Go of Zero-Sum Grace ”*

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*HYMN #19

“God of Great and God of Small”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please fill out a prayer card or speak directly into the microphone

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.



Weekly Vista

03/23/2025 Attendance:
Members/Friends: 81 Guests: 2
Online: 17

WELCOME!

We hope you will find your time of worship with us to be very meaningful. We are an open faith community.

Please visit www.pcbv.org, or call the Church Office at 855-2390 if you would like to learn more about us and inquire about membership.

OFFICE HOURS

MON- THURS:
9 am to 3 pm
FRIDAY: CLOSED

For pastoral emergencies, please call or text Pastor Judi at 479-403-9082.

Pastor's day off is Friday, she will return calls later. To schedule an in-person appointment, please email her at jmcmillan@pcbv.org stating your need.

Deacons on Call
for April :
Frank Taylor
Butch Cowdin



You are invited
to refreshments
and a time of

Sugar-free cookies will no longer be supplied, unless the Shepherd group for that week chooses to do so.

Minute for Missions— Peacemaking (One Great Hour of Sharing)

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety,



Order forms will be available the next two Sundays for Easter flowers—\$18 each. Orders will be due by April 14th.

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 30

9am Christian Ed Class
10am Worship—Minute for Missions (Peacemaking)
11am-12pm Fellowship Time (F/H)

Monday, March 31

No EVENTS

Tuesday, April 1

4:40-5:50pm—Taize Music (Sanctuary)
5-6pm—Lenton Soup Supper (F/H)
5:30pm -6:30pm Men's AA (A)

Wednesday, April 2

9:30am Deacons (A)
3pm—Congregational Life (C)
5:00pm Bell Choir
6:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 3

2-3pm—Book Group (F/H)

Friday, April 4

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
10am-5pm—PEO Meeting Prep (Kitchen- F/H)
1-3pm—Knitting for Peace

Saturday, April 5

8am-2pm—PEO Annual Lunch (F/H)
9am—Presbyterian Men's Group (Choir room)

Sunday, April 6

8:30-9:30am—Brunch with Youth/Presbytery
10am Worship
11am-12pm Fellowship Time (F/H)

April 4-6, 2025



Mission: Possible

Northwest Arkansas

April 6th from 8:30-9:30am, the church will be hosting youth for breakfast.

The congregation is invited to come have fellowship time with these NWA Presbyterian youth that are on a retreat working with food pantries in the area.

Breakfast (egg casseroles, bacon, donuts, coffee, tea, juice & water) will be provided, so please sign up in **connector hallway** to attend.

There will be no Christian Ed class on this day, please come have breakfast and talk to the youth.





PRODIGAL GRACE

BY LISLE GWYNN GARRITY

INSPIRED BY LUKE 15:1-3, 11b-32 | CHARCOAL ON PAPER

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

I have, like many, often resonated with the elder son in this parable. And, like many, I read it with frustration and a bit of righteous indignation. Why shouldn't good behavior be rewarded? Why should such callousness be dismissed without consequences? For all of my life, I have felt the tug of responsibility much more strongly than the pull of rebelliousness. As author Kate Bowler¹ might say,

I have developed my own version of a prosperity gospel where I expect to be rewarded for my good deeds and treated well for doing the right thing.

In nerdy pastor circles, we talk about a theological concept called "prevenient grace." It means that God's grace precedes human decisions and behavior. Before we can do anything right or wrong, God's grace abounds. This sounds so lovely in theory. And then situations resembling this parable come along and I cling to my prosperity-based, transactional version of the gospel.

In Luke 15:20 we see that the father is moved to compassion as soon as he glimpses his youngest son along the horizon line. He does not wait for an apology. He does not require retribution. Instead, he is moved simply by his son's return.

Perhaps this parable should be renamed, "The Prodigal Father," for he doles out grace just as lavishly as his son squanders his wealth. Perhaps then I might be less angry about prodigal waste and more thankful for prodigal grace.

— LISLE GWYNN GARRITY

¹ Reference from Kate Bowler's book, *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved*. Penguin Random House, 2018. <https://www.amazon.com/Everything-Happens-Reason-Other-Loved/dp/0339532067>