



**United Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Second Street
Bloomington, IN 47401**

3rd Sunday in Lent
10:00am – March 23, 2025

The Reverend Susan McGhee
Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of Ohio Valley

812-332-1850

www.upcbloomington.org

United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 23, 2025

The 3rd Sunday in Lent



WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Elder Allen Pease

Sanctuary Flowers are placed by Gerritt & Vera Heitink in loving memory of their mothers.

PRELUDE Benjamin Watkins, piano

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** 2 *Corinthians 13:13, Matthew 4:4* Deacon Michelle Heitink, liturgist

Liturgist: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you.

Liturgist: We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God

* **HYMN No. 356** (music No. 355) *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist: To all and to each, where regret is real,
God pronounces pardon, and gives us the grace to begin again.
Together, let us pray:

**People: O God, bring new life where we are worn and tired,
new love where we have turned hard-hearted,
forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded,
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit
where we are prisoners of ourselves.**

**We call upon your saving mercy, O God,
and pray that you will lead us in a new direction.**

– all pray in silence.

WORDS of ASSURANCE

Liturgist: Praise to the living Christ,
hanged on a tree, yet risen in the morning,
Christ scatters the sin from our souls as the mist from the hills;
Let us welcome the grace of Christ in our hearts
to begin what we do, to inform what we say and to redeem who we are.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

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

MUSIC for MEDITATION

THE PEACE of CHRIST

Liturgist: The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Liturgist: I invite you to share the peace of Christ with those around you.

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Liturgist: Gracious and Holy God:
 give us Diligence to seek Thee,
 Wisdom to perceive Thee,
 Eyes to behold Thee,
 a Heart to meditate upon Thee,
 and a Life to proclaim Thee;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON (Liturgist)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

THE GOSPEL (Pastor)

Luke 15:11b-32

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Long Way Home

Rev. McGhee

* **HYMN No. 210** *Our God, Our Help is Ages Past*

* **AFFIRMATION of FAITH** *from A Brief Statement of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

Leader: Together, let us say what we believe:

**People: In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
 to pray without ceasing,
 to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
 to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
 to hear the voices of peoples long silenced
 and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
 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!"
 With believers in every time and place,
 we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us
 from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 Amen.**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE Reverend Susan McGhee

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**People: 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.**

THE OFFERING of OUR TREASURE Reverend McGhee

Offertory

**The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication*

* **HYMN No. 339** *Be Thou My Vision*

* **CHARGE and BENEDICTION** Rev. Susan McGhee

THE POSTLUDE Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Roby Lorimer Kathleen Olds Oliver Ruth Anita Steverson Diana Trowbridge
His Eyes Mission in Honduras Nyaka Global in Uganda

The people of Georgia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Middle East, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine

St. John Presbyterian Church, pastored by Rev. Allen Colwell, is a historic downtown church in New Albany. We host the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, which serves the three-county area with senior volunteer opportunities. We have a flower ministry and quilting group. We are also the home of the Southern Indiana Great Banquet. Like other Cursillo model weekends (such as the Walk to Emmaus), the Great Banquet is a 72-hour short course in Christianity including talks, worship, communion, jokes, and lots of food. It is for anyone looking to further their faith identity wherever they are in their walk with Christ. As far as Outreach goes, we support Hope Southern Indiana and Marie's Ministries. Currently, we are refurbishing our gym, which has gone years without a little TLC. Soon we'll be working out, playing pickleball, and other various games as we tend to our physical health as much as our spiritual health.



United Presbyterian Church Staff

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