

March 11 Sermon Notes

9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Worship Services

Lenten Series - "Living our mission: Knowing, Following and Serving Christ, through the Gospel of Luke"

Guest Preacher: Dr. Clifton Black, Princeton Theological Seminary

Scripture: Luke 18:9-14 (*New Testament, pp. 76-77*)

Title: Thank God You're Sick

Big Idea: No matter how badly we may feel about ourselves or something we've done, God loves us just as we are.

Next Week

9 and 11:30 a.m. Worship Services - March 18

Preacher: Rev. Henry Coates

Scripture: Luke 23:32-49

Title: At the Cross with Christ

Big Idea: On the cross, Jesus dies, the righteous for the unrighteous.

Listen to Sunday Sermons on the FPCE website or via the "First Presbyterian Church of Evanston" iTunes podcast. Sermons are usually uploaded by Tuesday evenings.

First Presbyterian Evanston

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Highlights

Our guest preacher this morning is Dr. C. Clifton Black, professor of Biblical Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. An ordained elder of the United Methodist Church, he is the author and editor of numerous published works on topics such as biblical theology, New Testament rhetoric, and the history of biblical interpretation. Dr. Black is currently writing a commentary on The Lord's Prayer.

FPCE will host a Jazz concert this afternoon at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. The event is part of the 9th Annual ChiTown Jazz Festival. The performers include Sherry Cothran and the group "Jazzy Divas." Proceeds go to help fund programs for the hungry throughout Chicagoland. More information and ticket info are available on the FPCE website.

Our annual series of Taizé Lenten Prayer continues this Wednesday, March 14. Subsequent services will take place March 21 and 28. Each of the gatherings will begin at 7 pm and will be held in Walker Chapel. Join us for a service of meditative prayer with simple and reflective songs in the style of Taizé. Communion will be celebrated at each of these events.

A Wednesday Night Dinner will be held prior to the Taizé Lenten Prayer event. The meal begins at 6 p.m. and the St. Patrick's Day-themed menu will consist of corned beef, boiled potatoes and cabbage, and soda bread. The cost is \$5 per person. Reservations at the front desk by Monday evening are appreciated. All are welcome!

We invite you to take a moment to interactively pray for the children and youth in our church. Our large bulletin board outside the Sanctuary has sheets with the names and ages of children and youth. Each week, we encourage our whole church to choose a child's name, write him or her a prayer, and then continue to pray for that person throughout the week. As you write on the pages, please use your words to encourage the children and youth in our church through prayers, Bible verses, and blessings. If you notice that your child or youth's name is not included, please stop by the front desk and fill out a page so that we can include you. As we take the papers down, we will return them to the children and youth with our words and prayers. Thank you!

Worth Noting

Childcare is available by request for our Wednesday evening Lenten worship services. We are happy to staff the Crib Room for families who would use this service, but we ask that you RSVP to the front desk by the Tuesday prior at 5 pm. We will not have childcare on Wednesdays if we do not receive any reservations. For Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, care will be available in our Crib Room during both these 7 pm evening services, with no need to RSVP.

Easter Floral Remembrances are once again available for purchase. Donate \$10 toward the purchase of the floral plants to be placed in the Chancel on Easter Sunday in memory of loved ones (Note: there is not one plant per remembrance.). Forms are available at the front desk, and the deadline to order is Palm Sunday, March 25.

Please help the Deacon's Clothes Closet provide the comforts of home to our guests by donating the following new or gently used items: towels, wash cloths, pillows, blankets, and sleeping bags.

The Parish Nurse Book Club will meet again Tuesday, April 3, from 1:30 to 3 pm in the Parlor. They will discuss *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks. All are welcome to join us for our discussion.



Missions

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Pray for Our Mission Partners

Pray for our mission partners, Middle East Christian Satellite Television (SAT-7), from pages 88 and 89 of 52 Weeks of Prayer for Mission. Ask God for financial provision for SAT-7, to continue its progress toward the goal of making the gospel available to every person in the Middle East and North Africa. Pray that the SAT-7 staff would be protected from physical harm or illness, protected from temptations which would hinder their witness, and energized for the growing ministry of SAT-7.

Our mission-focused adult education class entitled “Building Friendships with Muslims and Internationals: Cultivating Meaningful Spiritual Conversations” continues this morning at 10:30 am in the Dining Room. Come and be trained on being Christ’s ambassadors here in Chicagoland, now through March 18. Facilitators include Dan Mc Nerney, Dave and Sally Ivaska, Ned and Sharon Hale, Melanie Myatt and Caryl Weinberg. The group will be using a video series, Muslims, Christians and Jesus by Carl Medearis. Books (optional) are on sale at the Front Desk for \$10.

Thank you to all who have donated items and service to our First Friends Syrian refugee family. Continue to keep them in your prayers!

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/serve/in-the-world/>

Prayer in the Parlor

The Parlor on the second floor is open each Wednesday for prayer and meditation from 9 am to 9 pm. All are welcome to come and spend time in prayer and praise in the space set aside for a holy time with God.

Children and Families

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2nd Grade students will be presented with a Bible during both worship services on Sunday, April 15. We imprint Bibles with each student’s name. If you haven’t received an email request for your child’s name, please contact Kristin Mueller so that your 2nd grade student receives a Bible.

Fish banks for the “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering are available at the Children’s Ministry table outside the library. Children are invited to give offering throughout the Lenten season, and then return the bank to church on Palm Sunday, March 25. An engagement map with activities is also available as a tool to show where our offerings are sent each year.

Registration for Church Camp at Phantom Ranch in Mukwonago, WI, is now open! Children currently in 2nd through 6th grade are invited to join us from June 17-22. We sleep in cabins staffed by at least two counselors and spend the days horseback riding, playing games, learning Bible stories, and sharing life together. Brochures are available at the Children’s Ministry table, and scholarships for some or all of the camp fees of \$425 are available. Register online at <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/children/first-kids-camps/>

Has your family outgrown your Fisher Price Little People characters and sets? We are looking for gently used Little People toys for use in our Crib Room here at church. We are in search of playsets, vehicles, people, animals, and other fun pieces. As we collect these items, we will also share the donations with families in our First Friends ministry. Thank you!

Summer Save-the-Dates!

- Family Camp Weekend, Stronghold Camp, Oregon, IL – July 6-8
- Vacation Bible School, on-site at First Pres – August 6-10

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/children/>

Sunday Morning Greeters sought

Do you want to help make our church more welcoming to visitors? If so join the welcome team as a greeter Sunday mornings. We are looking for volunteers to greet before and after the Sunday morning services. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Stephanie Homan at stephanie.b.homan@gmail.com.

Youth and Families

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High school Youth Group (PYGS) meets downstairs in the PYGS lounge from 4-6 pm this Sunday afternoon. Dinner will be served. A \$5 donation is requested to cover the cost of food. This week we will be talking about the Summer Mission Trip, enjoying ice cream sundaes, and getting to know the new Youth Director Rev. Amanda Golbek. Please bring your favorite Sundae topping to share!

Middle school Youth Group (NUBS) meets each Friday, from 7-9 pm, on the top floor in the NUBS lounge. 6th-8th graders are invited to come for a time of snacks, fellowship, and Bible study.

High school students, college students, and young adults are invited to apply to be a camp counselor at Church Camp this summer! Counselors are asked to invest a week of their time (June 17-22) in our children, but volunteers find the work to be incredibly rewarding and eternally significant! Application packets are available at the front desk or online.

The High School Mission Trip will be July 22-27 in Benton Harbor, Michigan. We will be serving the communities youngest and oldest residents alongside other churches. Registration fee is \$450. Registration details can be found on the Sunday School table, online or by contacting Pastor Amanda. **Deadline to register: Sunday, April 8.**

More details about Youth events can be found in our weekly email. Text YOUTHGROUP to 42828 to subscribe!

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/students/>

Young Adults and Families

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Want to know Jesus more fully? Looking for a Sunday school class that will delve deep into the Bible and not shy away from hard questions? Come to Pastor Henry’s class on The Gospel of Mark! We are studying Mark chapter by chapter, attempting to take in a holistic view of the Scripture text that encompasses historical, literary, and theological insights. Mark’s Gospel centers around the question Jesus asks of his disciples, “Who do you say I am?” All are welcome, from first time visitor to long time member, to join with us as we seek the answer! When: 10:30 am. Where: Upstairs in the Parlor.

Family Open Gym

Thursdays, 4-7 pm, Roy Hall

Open for parents and their children to come run around, shoot some baskets, play some games. No need to RSVP; just show up and have a great time!

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/adults/young-adults/>

150th Anniversary Art Exhibit planned

Wanted: Visual artists! As part of the 150th anniversary celebration in July, the Arts Ministry Team plans to stage an exhibit of our congregation’s artistic talent. If you wish to participate with an example of your talent in the genres of photography, painting, drawing, watercolor, collage, calligraphy, needlework or quilting, please contact Dan Van Heukelem at danvanenterprise@sbcglobal.net to express your interest and get more details.