

## March 18 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"**

**Preacher:** Rev. Henry Coates

**Scripture:** Luke 23:32-49 (*New Testament, p. 84*)

**Title:** At the Cross with Christ

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

## Next Week

9 and 11:30 a.m. Worship Services - March 25 - PALM SUNDAY

**Preacher:** Rev. Raymond Hylton

**Scripture:** Luke 19:28-44

**Title:** Entering the City with Christ

**Big Idea:** : After entering Jerusalem, Jesus wept because the people could not see Him as God's messiah.

**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 annual series of Taizé Lenten Prayer continues this Wednesday, March 21 and then concludes March 28.** Both 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.

**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.

**Next Sunday we will enjoy a Fellowship Sunday, which means there will be (almost) no Adult Education Hour classes, and all are invited to gather between the two worship services in Roy Hall and enjoy one another's company. Youth and Children's education classes will continue to be held, as will the Lenten Small Group in Room 103. 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

**We offer our heartfelt condolences to Bonnie Ekhardt and her family on the sudden passing of Rev. Bill Ekhardt, Thursday, March 15, in Skokie. Funeral service arrangements are pending.**

**We offer our heartfelt condolences to Rev. Younan Shiba and his wife Layla on the passing of Layla's father, Mikail al Bazzi, who died Saturday, March 10, in Turkey. A local memorial service is being planned.**

**We welcome Anderson Riley Humbel, son of Matthew and Leslie Humbel, and Thomas Duncan Stevenson, son of Andrew and Emilie Stevenson, for the sacrament of baptism this morning.**

**Join the Mom's R Us women's group for their Easter brunch at 9:15 am, Thursday, March 22, in the Dining Room.** All new women to our group are very welcome. Those with last names beginning with A-M bring fruit. Those with last names beginning with N-Z bring baked goods. Questions? Email Patty Bastian at [rwbastian@aol.com](mailto:rwbastian@aol.com).

**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, Younan and Layla Shibah of Middle East Fellowship, from pages 90 and 91 of 52 Weeks of Prayer for Mission.**

Ask God to guide and bless their outreach to Middle Eastern families throughout the Chicagoland area. Ask that He would provide the resources necessary to maintain these relationships and for wisdom in pursuing future opportunities. Lift up Layla, her mother and siblings as they mourn the loss of their father. Ask God to comfort Layla's mother, who is now alone in Turkey. Pray the family can obtain visas to visit Turkey to be with her.

**Our mission-focused adult education class entitled "Building Friendships with Muslims and Internationals: Cultivating Meaningful Spiritual Conversations" concludes this morning at 10:30 am in the Dining Room.** Come and be trained on being Christ's ambassadors here in Chicagoland. Facilitators include Dan McNerney, 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.

**We are seeking a donation of airline fly-points to purchase a ticket for one of our Mission Partners who is hoping to attend the 150th celebration of First Presbyterian Evanston.** If you are interested in helping, please contact Caryl Weinberg.

**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

kmueller@firstpresevanston.org

**Celebrate Palm Sunday with us!** Children who would like to be part of a Palm Procession should meet in the hallway outside the Choir Room 10 minutes before the worship services on Sunday, March 25. Fish banks for the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering should also be returned next week during the worship services.

**Join other families from First Presbyterian Church for a family-friendly Good Friday Workshop on March 30!** We will spend the morning sharing snacks, participating in worship together, and creating an Easter seed project to take home. We'll be in the church Sanctuary, but our time will be more casual than a Sunday morning - little voices are welcome and encouraged! If you are able, please bring a breakfast food or cut fruit to share during our snack time. This is a free event, open to all, and begins at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room upstairs. Questions? Contact Kristin Mueller.

**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.

**Registration for Church Camp at Phantom Ranch in Mukwonago, WI, is now open!** Children currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/>

## Youth and Families

agolbek@firstpresevanston.org

**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 delving deeper into the meaning of the season of Lent.

**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. This Friday, March 23, we will be having a movie night!

**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. Scholarships are available. 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/>

### Employment Opportunity

**First Pres is seeking applications for a part-time salaried position of Worship Band Director.** The post will require 10-12 hours of work per week (flexible work hours, Monday through Friday plus Sunday mornings). The job description is posted on the First Pres website <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/about-us/employment> To apply, please e-mail your resume to [fpceworship@gmail.com](mailto:fpceworship@gmail.com) attn: Eleanor Ehresman.

## Young Adults and Families

hcoates@firstpresevanston.org

**First Pres has a small group for folks in their 20/30s which meets every other Sunday at Pastor Henry's house.** If you are interested in coming, know you are most welcome to join. Reach out to Pastor Henry in person or by email.

**We're putting together another team for the Chicago Spartan Race Sprint!** The race takes place Sunday, June 24, and scholarships are available for the registration fee. All are welcome if they're willing to push themselves and work together in a team. If Pastor Henry can do it, you can do it! Interested? Reach out to Pastor Henry. Deadline for signups is the end of April.

**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, from first time visitor to long time member, are welcome 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](mailto:danvanenterprise@sbcglobal.net) to express your interest and get more details.