February 2, 2020  4th Sunday after Epiphany  8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Prelude  
Fugue on BACH  
Robert Shumann

**Processional  
Griffin Barker

Greetings

*Call to Worship  
adapted from Micah 6:6-8
Leader: With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

People: Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Leader: He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

*Prayer of the Day
Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice and perseverance in striving for peace, that by our words and deeds the world may see the promise of your kingdom, revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Opening Hymn  
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies  
No. 462

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silence

Choral Response

Assurance of Pardon

*Song of Thanksgiving  
Gloria Patri  
No. 579
*The Peace
Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Scripture Reading
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Sermon: “Stumbling Blocks and Foolishness to Confound the Powerful and the Wise”
The Rev. Dr. Brent Johnston

*Affirmation of Faith
Excerpt from Belhar Confession
We believe... that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged; that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. Therefore... we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

Call to Stewardship

Offertory Anthem
This Cup of Grace
Mark Patterson

*Doxology
No. 592

*Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration
Leader: The Lord be with you.
**People:** And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
**People:** We lift them to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise...
Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy...
**People:** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty...
**People:** Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Leader: Gracious God...now and forever. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Words of Institution

Communion of the People
Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.
**People:** Thanks be to God.

Communion Music  
*Let Us Break Bread Together*  
Dale Wood

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn  
*Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*  
No. 516

*Charge and Benediction  
Leader: The Lord be with you.
**People:** And also with you.

**Recessional

*Postlude  
*Fantasia*  
Johann Pachelbel

*signifies congregation standing (for those able)  
**signifies 10:45 service only

Worship Leaders

Pastor  
Brent Johnston

Liturgist  
Tom Church

Director of Music  
Steve Bixler

Organist  
Mark Sweeney
Adult Education Classes Continue

Please join me on Wednesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to discuss what those in academia and those in the pew are talking about, John Robinson’s book *Honest to God*. Bishop Robinson sensed that Christianity needed to be made relevant to the modern world. And he found inspiration in that task in two twentieth century theologians—Paul Tillich and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

This book spawned in the academy the “Death of God” movement. It spawned in laity, a lay renewal, liturgical renewal, and what we now know as progressive Christianity.

This class promises to generate stimulating discussion as we seek to do in the words of Anselm, “faith seeking understanding.” The book may be bought at the Church Office for $20 or on Amazon. I hope to see you in class on Wednesdays in The Well at 6 p.m.

~ Pastor Brent

SAVE THE DATE!!
This year’s melodrama is scheduled for March 27 at 6 p.m. and March 29 at noon.

Upcoming Activities

Journeys Class Update

Come join us each Sunday morning as we explore the many facets of our faith journey. We meet in the Parlor at 9:30 a.m. for interesting presentations and lively discussions. In February, Brian Howard will lead a class *From Christ to Constantine*, based upon the PBS series. The class will embark upon an exciting and visually stunning journey to the beautiful and important historical places where Christianity was born and grew from a small movement called “The Way” to its place as the official religion of the Roman Empire.

*You are invited to join us from February 2 through February 23 at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Parlor. All are welcome!*

Guided Church Tour & Luncheon on February 9

Please join us on February 9 for a guided tour of the church. We will gather in the Sanctuary immediately after 10:45 service and then go to The Well for a Valentine Luncheon. Donations will be accepted. Then we will return to the Sanctuary for the tour. After a short introduction, you will be given some choices of places you would like to go. This will be our main 150th Anniversary Celebration event for February.

ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE DINNER & SERVICE

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten season. February 26 is the date for the Ash Wednesday Observation with a pancake dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the East Dining Room, followed by a Service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary that will include the imposition of ashes, special music by the Chancel Choir, and participation with the Children’s Ministry. You don’t want to miss this meaningful service.
Welcome, Visitors!

We extend a special welcome to those who are visiting First Presbyterian Church this morning. We are glad you are here! Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from an usher. Transistor hearing aids are also available for your use. Please ask any usher for one and feel free to sit wherever you wish in the Sanctuary while using one. All persons are encouraged to sign the Ritual of Friendship Pads as they are passed to you in the pews. Please include your address, email address, and telephone number. Please remember to turn off your cell phone before worship this morning.

Children’s Information—Children are welcome in worship. We do not mind a little fidgeting and fussing in the pew. We offer children’s worship bags with various quiet activities in cloth bags located just outside the Sanctuary doors. But if you feel that your child is having a difficult time sitting through church, you are welcome to worship in The Well. Remember, quiet play in The Well is appropriate so as not to disturb others who are trying to worship. Also, the McComb room is available as a Cry room. And, finally, we encourage you to consider the Nursery, which is located in the South end of the Case Building, where we have trained Staff to look after and engage your child from Birth to Kindergarten. If we need to contact you during worship, just give us your cell number and we will text you. You and your child’s (spiritual, emotional, and social) needs are important to us. (Liz Norris—Director of Children’s Ministry)

A quick reminder: Under the Child Protection Policy children are not allowed to leave the Sanctuary or The Well without an adult escort. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sympathy—The white rose this morning on the baptismal font is in memory of Barbara Works. Please keep her husband Paul and their family and friends in your prayers as they grieve their recent loss.

Flowers—The flowers for our services this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bob and Doris Tanner by Gary and Jill Tanner.

Praying for the Church Family—As a congregation we weekly focus our personal and corporate prayers upon a selection of church members and friends. Let us remember in prayer this week the following: Adriana & Walter Mau, Doug & Joan Aldrich, Jerry Devins, Herb Bevan, Carol & Kenny Wright, and Cynthia Brinley.

If you need a Stephen Minister, or would like more information about the Stephen Ministry, please contact Dr. Brent Johnston at 263-0248 or Louise Farmer at lfarmer4164@gmail.com.

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**Calendar**

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<th>Sunday, February 2</th>
<th>Sunday, February 9</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communion</strong></td>
<td>8:30 Worship (Chapel)</td>
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<td>9:00 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)</td>
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<td>9:30 Journeys Class (Parlor)</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, February 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday, February 9</strong></td>
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<td>4:30 Camp Comm. Mtg (WDR)</td>
<td>8:30 Worship (Chapel)</td>
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<td>5:30 CE Commission Mtg (The Well)</td>
<td>9:00 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)</td>
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<td>5:30 Facilities Mtg (C109)</td>
<td>9:30 Journeys Class (Parlor)</td>
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<td>5:30 Stewardship Mtg (Parlor)</td>
<td>10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, February 5</strong></td>
<td>10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)</td>
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<td>9:00 Dorcas Circle (C105)</td>
<td>10:45 Refugee Worship (C204)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 PW Study Circle (Parlor)</td>
<td>12:00 Worship &amp; Music Comm. Mtg (McComb)</td>
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<td>5:30 Wednesday Clubs</td>
<td><strong>Friday, February 7</strong></td>
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<td>6:15 Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)</td>
<td>12:00 150th Celebration Tour &amp; Lunch (Sanctuary &amp; The Well)</td>
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<td>6:30 Adult Ed (The Well)</td>
<td>12:30 Melodrama Rehearsal (EDR/WDR)</td>
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<td>7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)</td>
<td><strong>Saturday, February 8</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday, February 7</strong></td>
<td>9:30 Transportation Mtg (C109)</td>
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<td>12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (C109)</td>
<td>12:00 Youth Council Mtg (YL)</td>
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