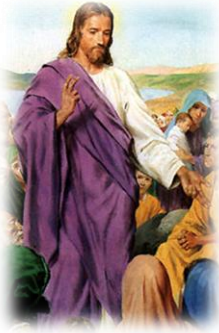


The Kingdom of God is like...

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 182 — 6300 Courthouse Road

Prince George, VA 23875



Fifth Sunday in the Season of Lent

Sunday, March 25, 2012 11:00 am

Be still and know that I am God.

(Psalm 46:10)

*Let us prepare our hearts in silence
to meet God's Spirit in worship!*

*What is meant by the second petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Your kingdom come"? We are asking God to come and rule among us through *faith, love and justice* – and not through any one of them without the others. We pray for both the church and the world that God will rule in our hearts through *faith*, in our personal relationships through *love*, and in our institutional affairs through *justice*.*

– PCUSA The Study Catechism

GOD GATHERS THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Sandra Perkins & Gail Rollings

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Kay Schroeter

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Mark Sprowl

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The promises of the Lord: For those who have lost their path...

People: Jesus comes as the Way.

Leader: To those whose spirit hungers for more...

People: God offers the Bread of life.

Leader: For those who thirst for the Truth...

People: God's Living Waters flow to you.

*Congregational please stand, if able; **bold** type read aloud

[Continued on next page]

Leader: For those in need of a fresh start...

**People: Christ's new life welcomes you!
Let us worship our loving God who is
our Way, our Truth, our Life!**

*HYMN #59 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* (Verses 1 & 4)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy, all too often, we look at the future,
And gaze into it with feelings of caution and fear,
Maybe worrying about what tragedy may befall us or those we love.
Or perhaps we view it with a sense of boredom,
Glumly expecting it to bring us only life's "same ol', same ol'."**

**Yet we know in Scripture you promise us...
...To be doing a "new thing" in our midst,
...To free us from the shames and failures of the past,
...To re-make us into your exciting "new creations,"
...And to give us lives not of mediocrity,
but of abundance, joy and fulfillment.**

**God of new beginnings,
forgive us such fears and lack of enthusiasm for life.
Help us to embrace your wonderful vision of what can be.
Strengthen us, that we may partner with you to bring it into being!**

(An opportunity for personal confession in silence.)

PROMISE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Leader: ...Amen. Friends, hear the good news: Life is good; the past is over and gone; the future is open. In Jesus Christ, we are free to live in love, in forgiveness, and in the newness of life.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#734 *Gloria Patri*)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES, GIFTS AND SELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#34 *Doxology*)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pat Hunter

(Children ages 3 – 1st grade are invited to leave for Junior Church; Older children may pick up a "Worship Board" in the right front pew for their use.)

BIBLE READINGS Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50, Luke 17:20-21 *God's Kingdom*

MESSAGE *Spiritual Immigrants* Rev. Mark Sprowl

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN #342 *Rejoice, the Lord is King* (Verses 1 & 4)

***WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH**

We believe...

We are in the world, but not of the world.

**Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people
do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world,
but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom.**

**Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom:
to serve as he has served us;
to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship;
to walk by faith, not by sight,
even as we hope for what we have not seen. Amen.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

***HYMN #719** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (Verses 1 & 4)

***BLESSING**

Leader: Let us live as a hope-filled people,

People: Loving generously,

Leader: Serving faithfully,

People: Enjoying the peace of Christ now and always. Amen.

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

WELCOME!

We hope and pray that as you worship with us today you may experience the love of God and be encouraged for the coming week. Visitors, make sure to let us know of your presence by completing one of the registration cards in the pews and placing it in the offering plate. Both visitors and "regulars" may use the cards to let us know of prayer requests or special needs.

FLOWERS for today's service are given to the glory of God in memory of Jimmy Wiseman, by his family. Flowers for the two previous Sundays, March 11 & 18, were provided by Mary & Doug Holc.

SEASON OF LENT - We continue our journey into the season of Lent which is celebrated during the six weeks before Easter. This time provides us an opportunity to reflect personally upon God's deep love for us despite our spiritual failures. It is marked by the color purple suggesting the somber mystery of the Cross.

TRIAD will be meeting on Monday, March 26, at 1PM in the PG Library. Randy Davis, Outreach Coordinator from Virginia Attorney General's Office will be presenting the program on "Elder Abuse & Neglect and Medicaid Fraud". Come join us and learn about the many benefits TRIAD has to offer as well as sharing fellowship with your Prince George neighbors!

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help in the PG Clothes Closet on Wednesday, March 28 at 9:30 am. Your help would be most appreciated in converting the Clothes Closet from Winter to Summer clothing. Until further notice, no clothing/shoe donations will be accepted.

FINAL LENTEN WORSHIP & LUNCHEON - Takes place this Thursday, March 29, at noon at Bethlehem Congregational Church, 10501 Pole Run Road, Disputanta.

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC - We continue our experiment during March to provide music before the service in an effort to enhance the worship atmosphere. Let us know whether you find it helpful or not!

BOOK STUDY - Pastor Mark continues his discussion on *Love Wins: A Book about Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived*. Join the discussion as author Rob Bell challenges some of the conventional understandings of divine judgment and punishment in this best-seller. Class meets in the parlor at 9:45 am through Sunday, April 1. You do not need a copy of the book to participate but you may order one at \$12.00 at class or through e-mail.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - Our church secretary, Julie Jacobs, will be leaving April 6, and we are seeking an individual to fill the position. The job is three days a week, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, with the days of the week negotiable. Salary is \$10 per hour. Secretarial and computer experience are required. If you know of someone who may be interested, have them contact Dianne Overstreet, Personnel Committee Chair, 862-4674 or Rev. Sprowl at the church.

5-CENTS-A-MEAL-OFFERING - Help us feed the hungry in Prince George and beyond with this monthly offering taken this morning by our children with the “red wagon.”

NEWSLETTER INFO for the April newsletter is due at the office this Wednesday.

VISITOR INFORMATION - We have special informational packets for our visitors, both adults and children. Please ask an usher for assistance.

2012 Stewardship to Date

“The Facts”

Annual budget expense	\$137,754
Pledged & projected Income	\$133,804
Monthly budget needs	\$11,480
Weekly budget needs	\$2,650

“The Figures”

Offering March 4	\$2966.00
Offering March 11	\$1613.30
Offering March 18	\$3267.15

Attendance March 18

Sunday School - 26 Worship - 126

This Week at Gregory March 25 - April 1

Today	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service 5-Cents-A-Meal
Monday	1:00 pm	TRIAD meeting
	2:00 pm	Line Dancing
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Choir
Saturday		Relay for Life Dinner
Sunday	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday Servants

Today

April 1

USHERS	Valerie Harsh Pamela Harsh Jerry Bond Debbie Smith	Wayne Powers Rose Scott Marguerite Bishop Dianne Overstreet
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Mary Kay Schroeter	Rose Scott
NURSERY	Robbi Foster	Glenda Mayhew
JUNIOR SERMON	Mary Kay Schroeter	Lisa Hartsell
JUNIOR CHURCH	Josh Ingram Morgan Ingram	Virginia Maloney Jared Smyth
COUNTING	Morgan Ingram David Johnson	Sandy Hunter Evelyn Lichvar

Prayer Concerns

Ruby Hasky	Ed Smiley (<i>Friend of Doug Holc</i>)
Christine Belsches	Katherine Tompkins
Aida Faries	Mary Chadwick (<i>Dink Armstrong's sister</i>)
June Hawks	Virginia Mika (<i>sister of Grace and Helen Cibula</i>)
Marian McDonald	Matt Mauger
Helen Cibula	Amy Harte (<i>David Johnson's cousin</i>)
Harry Johns	The family of Maurice Zachman (<i>Debra Bailey's father</i>)



We Welcome All Who Worship with Us this Morning!

If you are not active in a church home in this community, we invite you to consider joining our fellowship and sharing in this ministry of Christ here.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We offer engaging classes each Sunday for all ages beginning at 9:45 am. Children, youth and one adult class meet on the second floor of the Educational Building, and another adult class meets downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for coffee in the kitchen before and after class!

NURSERY & JUNIOR CHURCH

During the worship service, we provide loving child care for infants and toddlers. Children ages pre-K through 1st grade are invited to join their parents in the service through the *Time with Children* after which they can follow their leaders to a worship-based activity appropriate for their age.

For children who remain in the worship service, there are “worship boards” in a box in the front right pew for their learning and enjoyment during the service.

SESSION COMMITTEE MODERATORS

<i>Christian Education</i>	Valerie Harsh	452-2548
<i>Congregational Care</i>	Evelyn Lichvar	861-6417
<i>Facilities</i>	Bobby Allen	691-3337
<i>Missions</i>	Dianne Overstreet	862-4674
<i>Outreach</i>	Donald Hunter	733-8414
<i>Personnel</i>	Dianne Overstreet	862-4674
<i>Stewardship & Finance</i>	Morgan Ingram	691-1032
<i>Worship</i>	Mary Holc	541-2565

PRIMARY CHURCH CONTACTS

Church Phone: 804-732-1081 **Website:** www.gregorymemorial.org

Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Interim Pastor: Mark Sprowl, mobile 804-512-9197, mesjlh@aol.com

Secretary: Julie Jacobs, gregorymemorialoffice@verizon.net

Organist: Sandra Perkins, **Accompanist:** Gail Rollings

Clerk of Session: David Johnson

Treasurer: Kevin Foster, kevin.foster@bsvnet.com, phone 804-732-1096

Financial Secretary: Sandy Hunter



JOIN US!

Sundays, April 1 – 8

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 1 - 11:00 am - Once again on this holy day we observe the contrasts of Jesus' triumphal procession into Jerusalem and his rejection by his people at the Cross. We will have our own procession and waving of palm fronds and invite you to join us!

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 5 - 7:00 pm - This year in addition to celebrating the Lord's Supper in intimate fashion at the front of the sanctuary, the service will also be one of "tenebrae" (Latin for "shadows") where we will extinguish candles and lights with the reading of Scripture to suggest the fading of Jesus' light from the world.

EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE, APRIL 8 - 7:30 am - What better way to travel back in time to the disciple's surprising discovery of the empty tomb than to worship outdoors in the Temple parking lot on Easter morning! During this shortened service, we'll sing the familiar songs of Easter and rejoice in the good news that "He is risen indeed!" The service will be followed by our usual delicious Gregory **Easter breakfast** in the Fellowship Hall! (In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held in the sanctuary.)



EASTER SUNDAY FESTIVAL WORSHIP, APRIL 8 - Bring a flower from your garden or use one of ours to "flower" the Cross as evidence of new life in Christ! Flowers, soaring choruses, an inspirational message... and you! That's what it will take for our worship to become truly festive. It's always a wonderful time to invite guests and family members to join you.