

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

## OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY - *The Lord's Prayer*

J. S. Bach

## ✦ DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ all creatures here below;  
praise Holy Spirit ever more; praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.*

✦ **HYMN 718** - *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*

BOURBON

## ✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

May the Spirit of the Living God, Made known to us most fully within life's Dark Wood:  
Go before you to show you the way; Go above you to watch over you; Go behind you to  
push you into places you may not necessarily go yourself; Go beneath you to uphold and  
uplift you; Go beside you to be your strong and constant companion; And dwell within  
you to remind you that you are surely not alone, And that you are loved—loved beyond  
your wildest imagination. Amen.

POSTLUDE - *Prelude in E minor*

J. S. Bach

*Today, Session members will again host "Listening" sessions  
regarding transition at 9:30 am and 12:15 pm in Fellowship Hall.*

*We invite all who can attend to continue to engage in the future of our church.*

**THOSE ASSISTING THIS MORNING** - **Preacher:** Lisa Rzepka; **Liturgists:** Mary Stuart Kempton  
(8:30), Nancy Campbell (11:00); **Greeter:** Elaine Mumford (8:30); **Ushers:** Elizabeth Cassidy,  
Jo Fleming (8:30), Beth & Bart Hiltabidle, Dave & Sue Blackshear (11:00); **Acolyte:** Justin  
Porath (11:00); **Time with Children:** Miss Good; **Discovery:** Chris & Kelly Friends (11:00);  
**Mission:** Alison Whitacre.

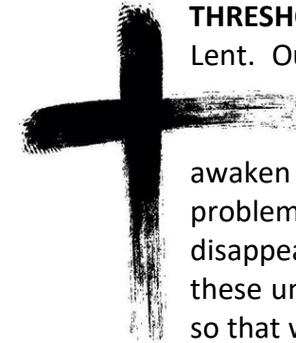
Series based on *Gifts of the Dark Wood* by Eric Elnes. Litany adapted from designstudio.com.

**STAFF NEWS** - Rev. Shortlidge has requested and Session approved on March 3, a six-week,  
paid, leave of absence, with Heather returning April 15. Rev. Rzepka will work from home  
tomorrow and is on vacation March 15-17; Rev. Dottie LaPenta will preach next Sunday.

# *First Presbyterian Church, Annapolis, Maryland*

## *March 10, 2019 – 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship*

### *First Sunday in Lent*



**THRESHOLD TO THE DARK WOOD** - Today we begin a journey in this season of  
Lent. Our worship series, "Gifts of the Dark Wood" is about "seeing life  
through different lenses." When we allow ourselves to accept the  
journey within the Dark Woods, the Holy Spirit tends to nudge us,  
awaken us, to a fuller life. But life is messy. Life is uncertain. Rather than a  
problem to be solved, what if we saw uncertainty, emptiness, being lost, and  
disappearing as occasions for spiritual development? What if we perceived  
these uncomfortable times as actually helping us let go of all we cannot know  
so that we can live more wholeheartedly? Let us begin the journey.

## PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

✦ Please rise in body or in spirit.

PRELUDE - *Be Merciful to Me O God*

J. S. Bach

## NOTICES OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Minute for Mission

(Please complete and pass the greeter pad down the pew and back.)

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00) - *Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord*

HALL

## ✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Unexpected Love, enter our hearts and open us to the gifts residing deep within the  
Holy Darkness of our lives.

**Walk with us, speak to us, call to us.**

**In your many names, we pray. Amen.**

✦ **HYMN 724** - *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

ANGEL'S STORY

## CALL TO CONFESSION

The path to authentic renewal is through repentance. To become more like Jesus, we  
must be willing to let him reveal those aspects of our lives which need to be changed.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

For giving fear too much attention,

**Forgive and restore us, O God.** (silence)

For digging in rather than going with the flow,

**Forgive and restore us, O God.** (silence)

For holding on too tight when what we need to do is let go,

**Forgive and restore us, O God.** (silence)

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Hear these words of assurance: God dwells with us, no matter how sure or unsure we are. God is not uncertain about whether or not we are worthy of love. God is with you, forgiving and restoring you to wholeheartedness. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

## RESPONSE OF PRAISE - *Behold I Make All Things New*

***Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today.***

***Behold, behold, I make all things new, my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.***

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### TIME WITH CHILDREN (11:00)

(Pre-k to 1<sup>st</sup> grade children may attend Children's Discovery after the message.

Older children remain in worship; activity bags available from ushers.)

### CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER (11:00) - *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*      CANONBURY

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, as we worship, make yourself known to us. If we have doubts, help us not to fear them but, rather, help us to find your presence in the ache of our uncertainty.

If we have questions, relieve us of the burning need always to find answers,

and help us to understand that in the darkness of things unknown

it is easier to discover a flicker of light. **Amen.**

### FIRST SCRIPTURE - *The Swan*

by Rainer Maria Rilke

This laboring of ours with all that remains undone,

as if still bound to it, is like the lumbering gait of the swan.

And then our dying—releasing ourselves

from the very ground on which we stood—

is like the way he hesitantly lowers himself

into the water. It gently receives him,

and, gladly yielding, flows back beneath him,

as wave follows wave, while he, now wholly serene and sure,

with regal composure, allows himself to glide.

“You are like Rilke’s Swan in his awkward waddling across the ground; the swan doesn’t cure his awkwardness by beating himself on the back, by moving faster, or by trying to organize himself better. He does it by moving toward the elemental water, where he belongs. It is the simple contact with the water that gives him grace and presence. You only have to touch the elemental waters in your own life, and it will transform everything. But you have to let yourself down into those waters from the ground on which you stand, and that can be hard. Particularly if you think you might drown... Let go of all this effort, and let yourself down, however awkwardly, into the waters.”

Brother David Steidl-Rast (*Gifts of the Dark Wood*, page 30)

### ANTHEM (11:00) - *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Jean Berger

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. When many cares perplex me, Thy comfort delights my soul. My times are in Thy hand, and Thou wilt guide and sustain me even unto the end. With Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light do we see light; create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Amen.*

### SECOND SCRIPTURE - Mark 10:17-31

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### SERMON

"The Gift of Uncertainty"

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### ✠HYMN 800 - *Sometimes a Light Surprises*

SALLE

### SERVICE OF ORDINATION & INSTALLATION (8:30)

**New Officers** - Noah Heimann, youth deacon; Mark Moran, trustee

**Apostles' Creed** (*Glory to God* hymnal, page 17)

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

(Concluding with the Lord’s Prayer using “debts” and “debtors,” *Hymnal*, page 35.)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Church	Community
<b>Sun 3/10</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT; SECOND SUNDAY COFFEE FOR SALE</b>	
	8:30	Worship (sanctuary)
	9:30	Music Meeting (Activity room)
	9:30	Session Information (FH)
	9:30	Education Hour
	10:30	Coffee Hour (FH)
	11:00	Worship (sanctuary)
	12:15	Session Information Meeting (FH)
	5:00	Youth Fellowship (Youth room)
<b>Mon 3/11</b>		12:00 Noon AA (FH)
		Through Thursday
	7:00	ACT: Mental Health RAT (Broadneck Baptist Church)
		7:15 ACOA (Music)
		8:00 Monday Night AA (FH)
<b>Tues 3/12</b>		12:00 Noon AA (FH)
<b>Wed 3/13</b>	12:00	Staff Meeting (KC1a)
	4:00	Bible Study (KC1a)
	7:00	Stewardship (KC1a)
	7:30	Taizé Worship (sanctuary)
<b>Thurs 3/14</b>	9:00	Archives (KC6a)
	6:30	Czech Partnership (KC4a)
	7:30	Choir Rehearsal (music)
<b>Fri 3/15</b>	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	
		12:00 Noon AA (FH)
<b>Sat 3/16</b>	9:00	Campus Care (ZW)
		8:00 Evening AA (FH)
<b>Sun 3/17</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</b>	
	8:30	Worship (sanctuary) - <i>Guest Preacher</i>
	9:30	Education Hour
	10:30	Coffee Hour (FH)
	11:00	Worship (sanctuary) - <i>Guest Preacher</i>
	5:00	Youth Fellowship (Youth room)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TODAY:

- **Fish Banks** - have arrived and are floating around the sanctuary. Fish will be "caught" on Palm Sunday, April 14.
- **Gorilla Coffee** - for sale in Fellowship Hall after each service, to benefit Connect Rwanda.
- **Children's Musical Information Meeting** - 9:30 Activity Room on 3rd floor of the main church building. Children and middle school youth and their families are invited to come hear details, rehearsal dates and expectations. The musical will be presented during worship on Sunday, May 19.
- **Youth Fellowship** - Tonight, 5:00-7:00 pm. Dinner provided by the Bell family. Come help us continue with Youth Sunday planning. We need your input and voices! Mandatory participation in 3 planning sessions in order to participate March 31, as required by the Youth Leadership Team, Rachel Hagee, Jake Heimann, Bobby Davids, Maggie Porath, Emma Miller and Avery Morrison.

**CUBA PARTNERSHIP VBS** - We will be sending four individuals to our partner church in Caibarién in July this summer. Application and cost information available from [www.annapolis-presbyterian.com](http://www.annapolis-presbyterian.com). Applications due April 15. For questions, contact Alison Whitacre ([alisonwhitacre@comcast.net](mailto:alisonwhitacre@comcast.net)).

### REMINDERS:

- **Pastor's Weekly Congregational Email** - Sign-up online at [www.annapolis-presbyterian.com/congregational-email](http://www.annapolis-presbyterian.com/congregational-email).
- **Baptism** - offered April 7, May 12, and June 16. Contact the church office.
- **Return Large Vases** - to Fellowship Hall for the Deacons' weekly flower deliveries.

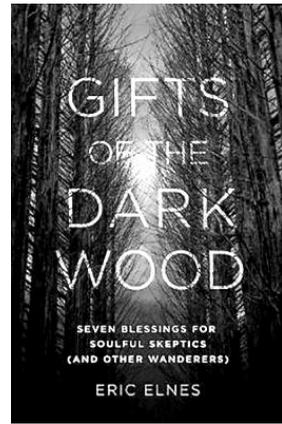
### COMMUNITY:

- **Faith Workshop** - March 30, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Catonsville Presbyterian Church. One-day training to equip leaders of faith communities including pastors, paid and unpaid church workers, and those passionate about ministering to those who are desperate due to any type of experience with suicide. The training includes the creation of worship resources, training congregation members in awareness and basic conversation skills, and the invitation to those who have been suicidal in the past to share their stories. \$15 includes workshop & lunch. For a link to register, email [office@annapolis-presbyterian.com](mailto:office@annapolis-presbyterian.com).
- **Door Knocking with ACT: Affordable Housing** - March 30, 11:00 am-3:00 pm, St Philip's Episcopal Church for training and door-knocking. RSVP to [ladsmom@gmail.com](mailto:ladsmom@gmail.com).

**LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP IN LENT**

**Gifts of the Dark Wood Worship Series**

*In the middle of the road of my life I awoke in a Dark Wood  
where the true way was wholly lost. —Dante Alighieri*



**A LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES**

**Have you ever had an experience of being in the Dark Wood?**

**Have you ever been...**

**Empty?**

**Uncertain?**

**Lost?**

**Invisible?**

**Could blessing be uncovered in those places?**

**Join us for worship in Lent.**

**Wednesday, March 13 - Taizé Worship, Sanctuary, 7:30 pm**

This month in our sanctuary at 7:30 pm, a quiet service of prayer, scripture and chant. Join us. Free parking available at our co-hosts, St. Mary's Parish.

**Sunday, March 17 - Second Sunday in Lent**

Guest preacher, Rev. Dottie LaPenta, will preach from Psalm 27 and Luke 13:31-35 on the themes in the "Gifts in the Dark Wood."

**Lisa Rzepka, Transitional Pastor**

**Heather Shortlidge, Associate Pastor**

**Bob Muckenfuss, Music Director & Organist / Miss Good, Family Ministry Director**

**First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, 171 Duke of Gloucester St, Annapolis MD 21401**

**410.267.8705 / [www.annapolis-presbyterian.com](http://www.annapolis-presbyterian.com) / [office@annapolis-presbyterian.com](mailto:office@annapolis-presbyterian.com)**

**Partner with the Caibarién congregation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Church of Cuba**

**The National Naval Memorial of the PC(USA) / An Earth Care Congregation of the PC(USA)**

**Partner with Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren, Czech Republic**

**Covenant Church with the Haiti Restoration Partnership**

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**HEARING AIDS, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & BIBLES AVAILABLE FROM USHERS.  
SANCTUARY IS EQUIPPED WITH T-LOOP; SET HEARING AID TO "T" POSITION.**

**PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FORM**

**Pick out from among you...[those]...of good repute, full of the Spirit,  
and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. Acts 6:3**

To facilitate an open and fair process for considering members of First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), suggestions are being accepted by the 2019 Nominating Committee. In order to commend for consideration an individual for one of the seven positions recommended by Session for the PNC, please complete the following. The Committee requests that you prayerfully consider church members of integrity who are:

- Knowledgeable about the church and community, Presbyterian theology & government;
- Spiritual leaders who are active in the life and work of the congregation;
- Able to make a significant commitment of their time, energy, and very best wisdom;
- Willing to accept this as a task of spiritual discernment, not being easily influenced by personal desires or politics, but rather by listening for the voice of God; and,
- Able to honor confidentiality.

NOTE: This form is NOT a ballot and will NOT be counted as a vote for the person recommended. Multiple recommendations of the same person will NOT give greater weight to consideration of that person's nomination. Nomination deadline is March 15.

Submit the below: in the **nominations box** at the rear of sanctuary; in **Ed Gilhooly's mailbox** (across from the church office); **by mail** to FPC, ATTN Ed Gilhooly, 171 Duke of Gloucester St., Annapolis MD 21401; or **by email** to [nominating@annapolis-presbyterian.com](mailto:nominating@annapolis-presbyterian.com).

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Elaborate on why you consider this nominee a good candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_