

## First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
4th Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2013

9:00 a.m.

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music and Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Bind Us Together and Open Our Eyes, Lord" arr. Rogers

Call to Worship from Psalm 32

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven!

**Happy are those who have no deceit within them.**

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

**Be glad in the Lord and rejoice!**

\* Hymn 298 (PH) "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"  
*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.**

**Forgive what our lips tremble to name,  
what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.**

**Set us free from a past that we cannot change.  
Open to us a future in which we can be changed;  
and grant us grace to grow more in your likeness and image;  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.**

\* Silent Confession

\* Lenten Kyrie (Sing 53) **Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

\* Response (Sing 74)

**Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and God will be my Savior.**

### PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination  
Psalter: Psalm 32 (PH 184)

A Time with Children  
Gospel Lesson (as told by our children): Luke 15:11-32

Anthem "The Power of the Cross" arr. Betcher

Epistle Lesson: Galatians 4:1-5:1 (NT, p. 189)  
Sermon: "Slaves to Christ, Free in the Spirit" Rev. Carter  
*Sermon Series: Galatians for Lent*

### RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* Hymn 66 (Sing) "For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free"  
\* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (PH, p. 14)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Minute for Mission and Offering Rev. Dianne Kareha  
Offertory "What Wondrous Love Is This?" arr. Johnson

\* Doxology (PH 592)  
\* Prayer of Dedication

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

\* Hymn 354 (PH) "Guide My Feet"  
\* Charge and Benediction  
\* Postlude "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" arr. John Carter

-----  
\* All who are able shall stand.  
PH Presbyterian Hymnal  
**Sing** Sing! A New Creation (green songbook)

**The flowers** this morning have been given by Alma Herron to the glory of God and in memory of her brother, George Herron.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor	William Carter
Director of Music	Susan Kelly
Director of Bell Choir	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Laura Schillinger
Ushers	Deb Traettino, Chris Spangler



*We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.*

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**300 School Street**  
**Clarks Summit, PA 18411**  
**570/586-6306**  
[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)

A large graphic featuring a cross centered over a circle. The text "FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT" is written in a serif font across the middle of the circle, and "9:00 AM" is written below it.

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
9:00 AM

### ***Luke 15:11-32***

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

### ***Galatians 4:1-5:1***

My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born

under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods. Now, however, that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again? You are observing special days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid that my work for you may have been wasted. Friends, I beg you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong. You know that it was because of a physical infirmity that I first announced the gospel to you; though my condition put you to the test, you did not scorn or despise me, but welcomed me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. What has become of the good will you felt? For I testify that, had it been possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? They make much of you, but for no good purpose; they want to exclude you, so that you may make much of them. It is good to be made much of for a good purpose at all times, and not only when I am present with you. My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, I wish I were present with you now and could change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, “Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birthpangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married.” Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the scripture say? “Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman.” So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman.

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.