**March 30, 2025 4th Sunday in Lent 11 AM**

**National Women's History Month**

Title: Prodigal Son
[Click for larger image view]

Murillo, Bartolomé Esteban, 1617-1682. **Prodigal Son (ca. 1667-1670),**

from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION** Linda Tsang

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN #840** (vv. 1,3)“It Is Well with My Soul”

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

**Refrain**: It is well with my soul; it is well; it is well with my soul.

3 He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought. My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [**Refrain**]

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE**

**RESPONSE: HYMN #582**  “Glory to God”

**1** Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

**2** World without end, without end. Amen.  
 World without end, without end. Amen  
 World without end, without end. Amen.  
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

**PEACE**

Let there be peace on earth.

**And let it begin with me.**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 32 (NRSVUE)

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.🕈  
**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity  
    and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.🕈  
**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
    my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;  
 I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,”  
    and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah🕈

**Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;**  
**at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
    you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah🕈

**I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
    I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
    whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.🕈

**Many are the torments of the wicked,  
    but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,

and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**FIRST READING** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NRSVUE)

16From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. 21For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**SECOND READING** Luke 15:1-3,11b-32 (NRSVUE)

1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3 So he told them this parable:

11b “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. 13A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. 14When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ 20So 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. 21 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.’ 22But 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. 23And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, 24for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

25 “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 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. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31 Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 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.’ ”

**SERMON** “True Repentance” Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Courter

**HYMN #442** “Just as I Am, without One Plea”

1 Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

4 Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

## PROFESSION OF FAITH from A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH of 1983

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

**OFFERING SONG #328**  “Praise God, All You Nations” **(**DaNase)

Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!  
Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise:  
God’s love is great and endures forever.  
Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION/THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CLOSING HYMN #649** (vv. 1-3) “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

1. Amazing grace, How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
   I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
   How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come,  
   'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**UPCOMING CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:00 AM** If you areinterested in enrolling your child/children, please see Karen Wood or Pat Young.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY –** 10:00 AM, Room #7 (in-person only)

We have begun a Lenten study using **Wondrous Encounters: Scripture for Lent** by Richard Rohr. Please see David or Jeff for a copy the book only if you will be attending.

**WEDNESDAY, MID-WEEK STUDY – 7:00 PM, ONLINE ONLY** using the church ZOOM log-on and password. We are using study guide Richard Rohr’s **Jesus Plan for a New World – The Sermon on the Mount**. If you are interested, please see Jeff or David.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (March 5 - April 20)** – This year’s theme is **REPAIRING THE BREACH**. It is a time of providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. We have a OGHS bulletin and special offering envelope as you come into the church. Please give generously!

**REMINDER:** We are still looking for **volunteers** for **worship readers** and/or **juice/coffee hour**. There is a 3-month sign-up sheet posted just outside the office.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office.

**First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills**

70-35 112th St., Forest Hills, NY 11375 presbyfh.org

**David Barnett**, Admin.718-268-4036 **Rev. Dr.** **Jeff Courter**, Pastor

[FirstPresFHNY@gmail.com](about:blank); rev.jeffrey.courter@gmail.com

**Nadina Grants**, Clerk of Session

Please note: we now have a public WiFi for the church, though it may only be available in the church hall for now.

**Name: CHURCH GUEST**

**Password: welcome1**

***For offerings/donations:***

1. ***Qr code

   Description automatically generated*Use Zelle to make Online donations from your bank account. Use this phone number to transfer to the church:**

**929-418-0958 (please note: this is a new number)**

1. **Make checks payable to *First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills* and mail check to the church office**
2. **Go to our church website:** [**presbyfh.org**](about:blank) **and click on the “**[**Give Now**](about:blank)**” icon to set up a donation; or click on the qr code above**
3. **Set up a “Bill pay” from your bank**



***Building a Community of Faith, Hope, and Love***

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