

First Presbyterian Church of Monroe
Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 3, 2022



Lessons from a Winter Rose

*I am dumbfounded by the sheer persistence of a winter rose
that blooms on the coldest of days---
when the rest of the world has turned dim and gray
when the rest of the world is sleeping.*

*The audacity to stand so tall, to decorate the world with color,
to be the only one brave enough to bloom. I wonder what that's like.*

*Maybe it's similar to pouring perfume on the feet of Jesus—
Shocking and beautiful at the same time.*



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Full to the Brim — *Brazen acts of beauty*

God loves the real you—the messy, authentic, honest you.

God, I am so used to putting on a filter. I slide into different versions of myself based on the room I'm in, but I don't want to do that with you. I want to bring my full self, the one you created. Give me the strength to pull back the layers. Give me the strength to bring exactly who I am to you, knowing it is more than enough. Amen.

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Charlotte Frary

May we find courage here—

courage to follow our call, courage to live out our faith.

May we find hope here—

hope for a better world, hope that refuses to let us go.

May we find truth here—

truth that lives in sacred community, truth that lives in ancient stories.

May we find all that we seek.

And in our seeking, may we know God. Amen.

Hymn

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

GTG 14

Call to Confession

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Prayer of Confession

Jesus of Nazareth,

we admit that often we tuck our faith into our pockets, hiding in a place of comfort rather than proudly declaring: yes we are Christian, yes we believe, yes this faith has changed me. We are so afraid of offending others or embarrassing ourselves that we have established rules: no faith at the dinner table, no faith in politics, no faith with strangers. Forgive us for whispering when we could be singing. Forgive us for staying quiet when we could be part of rewriting the narrative. We want to be brave. We want to pour out perfume over your feet. These things we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, hear this good news:

Even in our silence, **God loves us.**

Even in our fear or shame, **God chooses us.**

Even when we sin, **God wraps us in grace.**

You are free—to be bold, to be brazen, to be exactly who God called you to be.

Thanks be to God, amen.

“My Soul is At Rest”

“My soul is at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from God.”

Passing of the Peace

Charlotte Frary

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

A Story for All Ages

Yoshie Pomerville

Prayer for Illumination

Charlotte Frary

Scripture

Isaiah 43: 16-21

Charlotte Frary

Psalms 126

Charlotte Frary

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Time of Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in beauty—

beauty pulled into being by our Creator, beauty

that catches our breath,

beauty that turns us toward awe.

I believe in courage— courage
to believe,
courage to stand up for the people we love,
courage to love without hesitation.

I believe in the Holy Spirit
who prays for us when we cannot, who is
brave for us when we are not.

I believe in Jesus Christ who
stood up for Mary,
who quieted the voice of critique,
who welcomed every bid for relationship.

I believe in God.
I believe in God who believes in us.
Amen.

*Hymn

“The Lord Went to a Dinner”

(See insert)

Congregational Moment

Shannon Costello

Call to Offering

Charlotte Frary

*Doxology

GTG 606

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

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

The Lord’s Prayer

*Hymn

“Sacred the Body”

GTG 27

Benediction

As you leave this place,
may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world. May
you laugh, and may it be contagious.

May you overflow with love for those around you.
May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy. And
in all of your living, and breathing, and being,
may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,
and may it change your life.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—
go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

**All who wish to do so may stand*

*Words/images are signposts that point us to God; yet these words/images are not God.
Realizing words have power, every effort is made to use inclusive, expansive language for God.
You are invited to substitute word/images that are most comfortable for you during this time of
worship.*

*A special welcome to our guests. Your presence among us is a gift to our beloved community.
We trust God will draw you back to God's home—here at First Presbyterian Church of Monroe.
Would you give us the privilege of connecting with you by signing a pew card and placing it in
the offering plate?*

*If you would like to begin the conversation about becoming a member of our beloved
community—please speak with our pastor following worship or call (734) 242-1545 and select
option 11 to leave a message for our pastor.*



The music ministry of our new Director of Music, Michael Rosas, begins April 10, 2022.

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Music

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FPC Monroe Worship Team

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, Pastor
Rob Edwards, Director of Music
Isaac Fankhauser, Sound Team
Randy Stiffler, Sound Team
Charlotte Frary, Liturgist
John Chesman, Usher
Jim Heisler, Usher



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Ann Lux

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Jennifer Hueston
Ann Orwin

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Kay Gawle
Maria Ross

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