

*First Presbyterian Church of Monroe*  
*Third Sunday in Lent*  
*March 20, 2022*



*What I Forgot*

**Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree**

**because she knows**

**what I forgot**

**many years ago.**

**You are still worthy**

**even if**

**you don't produce.**



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

## Full to the Brim - *You are worthy*

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

Nicole Bahny

Come, all who are thirsty.

**Come, all who are seeking.** Come, all who are waiting. **Come, all who labor.**

Come, all who need rest.

**Come, all who dream dreams.**

Come—

whether you're young or old,  
confident or curious,  
lonely or hopeful.

**This is God's house. All are welcome here.**

**Let us worship holy God.**

### Hymn

“Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah”

GTG 65

### Call to Confession

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

### Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

**we treat our self-worth like something that can be bought at a store;  
but you know this even better than we do.**

**Instead of trusting that we are made good,  
instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are, we  
stockpile our value in earthly things—**

in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power. Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick. Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts that we won't be forgotten if we slow down. We won't be forgotten if we rest. Gratefully we pray, amen.

## Words of Forgiveness

..... Say it with me—

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are under God's wing. We are worthy of grace. We belong 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

Nicole Bahny

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## A Story for All Ages

Yoshie Pomerville

## Prayer for Illumination

Nicole Bahny

God of fig trees and foxes,  
of today and tomorrow,  
we would like to ask that you scoop us up.

Pick us up like a great gust of wind. Startle us  
awake like a first love.

Light a fire in us like tomorrow depends on today.

Do all of this to get our attention and then turn us toward you. We are  
a scattered people, God.

The world is moving faster than we can keep up. So, we  
pray—scoop us up.

Catch our eye.

Open our ears.

Capture our attention.

We are here. We long to be close to you.  
Amen.

## Scripture

Isaiah 55: 1-9

Psalms 63: 1-8

Luke 13: 1-9

Nicole Bahny

Nicole Bahny

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

## Sermon

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

## Time of Reflection

### Affirmation of Faith

**We believe**

**that the God of the cosmos is at work here.**

**We believe that God is fertilizing the soil.**

**We believe that God is planting roots.**

**We believe that God is growing fruit that is yet to be tasted.**

**But until that promised day**

**when the fig tree stands tall and swords are beaten into plowshares,**

**we believe:**

**when our work does not bear fruit,**

**God still loves us.**

**When our soil grows dry and cracked,**

**God still longs for us.**

**When all seems hopeless here on earth,**

**God holds hope for us.**

**The God of the cosmos is at work here.**

**We believe. Help our unbelief.**

**In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

### \*Hymn

**“Everyone is Worthy”**

*(See insert)*

### Call to Offering

Nicole Bahny

## \*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 The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

## \*Hymn

“I Am a Child of God”

*(See insert)*

## 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?*



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## **Music**

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### **Session**

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Ann Lux

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MaryAnne Hooper  
Jennifer Hueston  
Ann Orwin

Class of 2024

Diane Adams  
Kay Gawle  
Maria Ross

*John Chesman, Clerk of Session*

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