

First Presbyterian Church of Monroe
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 27, 2022



What Doesn't Play by the Rules

Grace is the ocean that softens the edges.

**Grace is the rain in the desert—
you're not sure whether to laugh, cry, or dance.**

Grace is a miracle, all by itself.

**In a scorekeeping world,
Grace doesn't play by the rules.**



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Full to the Brim - *Prodigal Grace*

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

God's reach is endless.

God's mercy is unstoppable.

God's grace is lavish.

God's love is constant.

God's wisdom is vast.

God's hope is stubborn.

God's presence is here—

with us, among us, moving through us.

Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

We are in God's house.

Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

Hymn

“Jesus’ Wondrous Words of Grace”

(See insert)

Call to Confession

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Prayer of Confession

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name.

It sounds like ours.

And we know his story.

It sounds like ours.

For who among us hasn't burned a bridge?

Who among us hasn't forgotten that we belong to one another?

**Who among us has not ached for home?
Who among us hasn't squandered something precious?
The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name.
Forgive us God. We want to come home.**

Words of Forgiveness

.....The feast is for you. This grace is extravagant.
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

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

Nicole Bahny

A Story for All Ages

Yoshie Pomerville

Prayer for Illumination

Nicole Bahny

Scripture

Joshua 5: 9-12

Nicole Bahny

Psalms 32

Nicole Bahny

2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

Nicole Bahny

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Time of Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us.
We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on
and throws a feast when we are found.**

We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us when we get lost.
We believe in a God of prodigal grace—
excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other.
We remember that humans are not meant to go through life alone;
so, we look for ways to welcome each other in,
to live like we are family,
and to lead with grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.
We believe that this is our call. Let it be so. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Softly and Tenderly”

GTG 418

Congregational Moment

Mark Baker

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

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn**

“Amazing Grace”

GTG 649

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?



MATTHEW 25



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

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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
Nicole Bahny, Liturgist
Jim Crammond, Usher
Helyn Schroeder, Usher



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Session

Class of 2022

Mark Baker
Liz Cunningham
Ann Lux

Class of 2023

MaryAnne Hooper
Jennifer Hueston
Ann Orwin

Class of 2024

Diane Adams
Kay Gawle
Maria Ross

John Chesman, Clerk of Session

Board of Deacons

Class of 2022

Josh Bahny
Nicole Bahny
Michael Dushane
Terry Dushane
Lynn Geiman
Cathy Shorter

Class of 2024

Judy Chesman
Sue Downing
Mary DeSloover
Courtney Fankhauser
Yoshie Pomerville
Karen Sobieralski

Mary DeSloover, Chairperson Board of Deacons