



10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



Sunday, February 5, 2023 - Communion

Worship for Sunday, February 5:

“Salt and Light”

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

Worshiping from home? We will celebrate communion this Sunday. Prepare your worship space with whatever representation of bread and wine you have on hand. God meets us where we are and uses what we have!

Prayer of Preparation

Holy God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Matthew 5:13-20 - Guest Commentary by Rose Schrott Taylor in The Presbyterian Outlook

It was my turn to make dinner, and I had opted for a new recipe — angel hair pasta coated in a sauce combining roasted garlic, butter, pasta water and a bag of spinach. It smelled heavenly. It tasted like dehydrated ocean water. I had oversalted the pasta water, effectively ruining the dish. Laughing, my husband and I both refilled our water glasses several times as we suffered through our bowls. No doubt that meal will enter our family lore as an evening when nothing went right (Did I mention I also set half a box of pasta on fire?), but it stands out in my mind as a reminder of the power of salt.

When used correctly, salt can call out flavors and bring food alive. Just think of a warm brown butter chocolate chip cookie sprinkled with flakey sea salt. Is there anything better?

Salt can also act as a preservative. It can clean and heal wounds. According to M. Eugene Boring’s Matthew Commentary in The New Interpreter’s Bible, salt also represented sacrifice (Leviticus 2:13; Ezekiel 42:24), covenant fidelity (Ezra 4:14; Numbers 18:19), and eating together as a way of creating a binding relationship to Matthew’s readers.

This evocative, multi-layer metaphor for discipleship opens Sunday’s Gospel passage. It is the role that Jesus, through the pen of Matthew, says is ours. By nature of being a follower of Jesus, we bring out the best in others — the goodness God has already created. We cleanse. We preserve. We bind.

Our purpose is derived from and through our relationship with the world around us. As Boring writes, “Salt does not exist for itself, nor do the disciples; their life is turned outward to the world.”

There is a strong emphasis in verse 13 and the whole passage about Jesus’ disciples sharing God’s love with the world. But there is a communal aspect to these metaphors and commands that is important to note. They might be more accurately interpreted for us English speakers to say “Y’all are the salt of the earth.” Or, if you are from Pittsburgh as I am, “Yinz are the light of the world.”

Our saltiness doesn’t happen in a vacuum. We cannot follow Jesus’ example unless we are united with our Christian siblings. In other words, there is something about being in relationship with other believers that allows us to become who God intends for us to be.

Scripture calls us to look outward into the world, but we can’t forget that our actions as disciples start with how we treat our siblings in Christ. It is our connection with each other, and the grace of the Holy Spirit, that makes us salt of the world.

Find Rose Schrott Taylor’s full article here [Looking into the Lectionary](#)

Church Birthdays

Feb. 7-Julie Rokes
 8-Bob Hall, Dave Luck

For Your Prayers...

Neil Clapp

Notice...

Wednesday, February 8
 10:30 am in the library-
 Deacons Meeting

Coming Soon...

Sunday, Feb. 12
Souperbowl of Caring
 Donations for the Food Bank will be received. Watch for details.

Wednesday, Feb. 22
Ash Wednesday
 5:30 pm Pancake Supper
 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday
 Worship, sanctuary

Sign up anytime online:

Worship Leader Sign Up:
[Sign Up: Worship Leaders](#)

Or sign up in the narthex!

Sunday Supper Helpers

sign up online:
[Sunday Supper](#)
[Volunteer Signup](#)

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Nancy Hoppe

Forum Fellowship: Margaret Clark, Lynette Cline

Annual Meeting Presenters: Sandy Jensen, Margaret Clark, Neal Leeper, Dot Clausen

Computer Operator: Gary Clark

Videographer: Neal Leeper, Kirk Eastman

Snow Removal: Gary Clark, Kirk Eastman, Jim Seeley

Projector Repair: Gary Clark

Light Fixture Repair: Jim Seeley, Gary Sabey, Gary Clark

Member Anniversaries

Bonnie Bickett: 2/25/78 - 45 yrs.

Mike & Vanda McRoberts: 2/28/88 -35 yrs

Stewardship Supplies

Boxes offering envelopes are in the narthex for anyone who wishes to use them.

Ash Wednesday Events

Join us on **Wednesday, February 22**, at 5:30 pm for a pancake supper in the dining room. Following the meal, we will reflect on Ash Wednesday in a joint service with the Cedar Falls Mennonites at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Upcoming schedule

Wednesday, February 1

10:00 am Working for Justice: BB, Zoom

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Thursday, February 2

1:00 pm Esther Circle, Zoom

Saturday, February 4

9:30 am Sarah Circle, classroom

Sunday, February 5

10:30 am Worship with Communion, sanctuary

Wednesday, February 8

10:30 am Deacons Meeting, library

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Sunday Suppers Volunteer Opportunities

At long last the Sunday Suppers hosted for those in need of a warm meal and fellowship by five PC(USA) churches in the Cedar Valley have returned! This is an incredibly meaningful ministry which strengthens the community and enriches our connectedness with our siblings in Christ.

Our congregation will supply 4 volunteers each Sunday: 2 for the opening shift (3:30-5:30pm) and 2 for the closing shift (4:30-6:30pm). Sign up to be a part of this good work at this link. Please choose only slots which are designated "1st Cedar Falls". All meals are held at First Presbyterian Church in Waterloo.

[Sunday Supper Volunteer Signup](#)

Souperbowl of Caring, February 12

Watch for our Souperbowl of Caring event on Sunday, Feb. 12. The Shine kids collect a noisy offering during worship.

We will also be collecting non-perishable food items.

No lunch will be provided.

If you are unable to attend that day but wish to bring food items, please put them in the church library by Feb. 13.



Welcome Home!

Due to lack of use, sign ups for greeters via online or in the narthex are being discontinued.

Instead, we encourage every member of the church to be a greeter! If you arrive 10-15 minutes before worship and no one is standing at the door, you may be a presence and greet familiar faces as well as new ones until worship begins.

No need to sign up or wear a name tag. It's ok to be a spontaneous greeter. No training or prior commitment is required. Thank you for being a back-door apostle!