

First Presbyterian Church



309 Lincoln Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15901

Vision Statement ~ We seek to become a Christian people of Spiritual Vitality and Faithfulness embraced by the love of God in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, as we love God and our neighbors, near and far.

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024

Rev. Hyiwot Teshome • Joyce Gerlach, *Liturgist*

10:45 AM

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Welcome to worship as we continue in the season of Lent. May we listen for Jesus' voice, rest in his care and share his love with others. As you listen to the prelude, please read over the service in the bulletin and meditate on the words, so that they may be an inspiration to you as you worship.

*Signifies to please stand if you are able.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

THE PRELUDE

“Prelude- Spanish Dance No. 2” (Piano)

WELCOME

CENTERING HYMN “Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place”

(Refrain x2) *Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** (Based on Psalm 19)

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect

People: The decrees of the LORD are sure

Leader: The precepts of the LORD are right

People: the commandments of the LORD are clear,

All: Let those who fear the Lord worship him mightily.

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Commanding God, we thank you for guiding us and for rules to adhere to. Help us reject the fear of your teachings; not see them as strictures but as loving and caring hand holdings, as a father would to a child. We say this in the name of the Lord who died to save us from certain death. Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #281** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Begin in silence, reading over the Prayer of Confession and preparing to pray it together.

With bowed heads, we come before you, forgiving God, to confess that we have failed to keep your laws. We have followed our own selfish will, and not your life-giving rules for our lives. We have bent our commandments so out of shape simply to match our selfish needs. Forgive us, dear God, and take us back into the fold and help us overcome our weaknesses. In the name of Jesus, we pray, amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***THE RESPONSE #579 “The Gloria Patri”**

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 20:1-17

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “Rules of Freedom” *Rev. Hyiwot Teshome*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #695 (*Glory to God*) “Change My Heart, Oh God”**

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***THE OFFERING of our Tithes, Time, and Talents**

THE OFFERTORY

“As We Gather at Your Table”

arr. Jack Schrader

***THE DOXOLOGY #592 AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, we trust in the provisions of your love and the abundance of your grace. May the gifts we offer bring glory to you in the ways they bear your love into the world. We ask this in Jesus’ name, Amen.

THE PRAYERS AND PRAISES OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SEALING OF THE WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF THE BREAD AND CUP

The Invitation

The Words of Institution and Prayer

The Distribution of the Elements

Communion Song #513

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Choir

The Deacons Offering

The Prayer after Communion

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***THE CLOSING HYMN #272 “God of the Sparrow”**

***THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

“Save Your People”

During the Postlude, you are welcome to stay and pray, simply enjoy the music, or head out into the world to meet the rest of your day, whichever is preferable to you.

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THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

TODAY	after worship	COFFEE SOCIAL/BP’s
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
	6:00 PM	DEACONS
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Carbaugh, Williams

WE EXTEND a friendly welcome to all who are visiting with us today. If you would like to learn more about First Presbyterian Church, please let the pastor know after the service.

PARISH NURSE Pat Betts will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to noon. Please feel free to stop by or give her a call!

VISION & HEARING ASSISTANCE Large print hymnals and wireless hearing devices are available from the Deacons.

IF YOU ARE AWARE of anyone who has any health concerns and would appreciate a phone call or visit and prayer, please let Pastor Hyiwot, Pat Betts or the office know. Also, if you are admitted to the hospital and would like a visit, be sure to let the hospital staff know or contact Pat or the office.

PINE SPRINGS CAMP is collecting empty printer ink cartridges, which are recycled for funds which help enhance the camping programs. Place your “empties” in the box under the bulletin board at the top of the Lincoln Street steps. Please note that there has been a change to the program: they do not accept laser/toner cartridges, they’ll accept INKJET cartridges only.

NON-PERISHABLE food items are collected each week and taken to the Food Pantry at Franklin Street U. M. Church. It’s easy to pick up an extra box of macaroni and cheese, jar of peanut butter, or can of vegetables while you’re doing your grocery shopping. The donation basket is by the Lincoln Street entrance.

THE FLOWER CHARTS are up in the hallway to the Parlor and are ready to fill in for 2024. Silk flowers are \$15 (which goes to Saturday’s Kitchen) and **the cost for real flowers is \$43.**

FROM THE DEACONS If you would like to dedicate the lighting of the Christ Candle in memory or in honor of a loved one, the signup chart is in the hallway by the flower charts. There is no cost.

2024 PER CAPITA / PRESBYTERY APPORTIONMENT Our Per Capita offering, which supports the work of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, has been set at \$44.00.

LIBRARY CALENDAR – a calendar for 2024 is posted in the library. Please be sure to add your group meeting dates and times. Thank you.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY Join us Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM as Pastor Hyiwot leads a six-week session based on Dr. A.J. Levin’s “The Gospel of Mark”.

NAR-ANON there will be no Nar Anon meeting on March 4. They will resume March 11th.

THANK YOU to Joyce Gerlach for serving as liturgist this morning.

THE CHRIST CANDLE will be lit today in honor of Isabel Cruse on her 88th birthday on March 5th, by her husband Ken.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed in honor of Isabel Cruse, in celebration of her 88th birthday on March 5th, by her husband Ken.

EASTER FLOWERS: It’s not too early to think about Easter flowers! Easter Sunday March 31st, and the nursery asks us to turn in our order **by March 13th**. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, with “Easter Flowers” in the memo. You may also order your flowers by calling the church office and mail the check later. Order forms are available at the church entrances and will be printed in the March issue of *The Vision*.

“ANGER IS ONE LETTER SHORT OF DANGER”

“ROTO REVIEW” (Reach Out To Others)

Pastor: Rev. Hyiwot Teshome

Email: PastorHyiwot@gmail.com

CHURCH:

Phone: (814) 536-8141

Email: 1stpreshjohnstown@gmail.com

Website: www.1stpreshjohnstown.org

Parish Nurse: Mrs. Patricia Betts

Choir Director: Mr. William A. Williams

Organist: Jennifer Kist

Ministers: All members of First Presbyterian Church

Administrative Assistant: Caroline Goller

THE SESSION

Class of 2025

Richard Feller

Roy Gindlesperger

Charnet Koch

Gary Mapes

Class of 2026

Michelle Bragg

Donna Cauffiel

John Foster

Joyce Gerlach

Class of 2024

Pat Betts

Chuck Benson

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2025

Wendi Sokira

Class of 2026

John Reitz

Maria Tiffany

Wendy Vickroy

Class of 2024

Carla Davis

Agnes Gindlesperger