

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.

Second Sunday of Lent

March 3, 2023

Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Pat Betts, *Liturgist*

10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP No matter our circumstances, “[our] help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2, NRSV). We gather to worship our loving Creator. Welcome. 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 ORGAN PRELUDE

“Save Your People”

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**

Leader: We are loved by the God of love.

People: We are redeemed by that love.

Leader: So loved that God gave us his son to die for us.

People: We are gifted eternal life by that sacrificial love

ALL: Let us worship that God of love, God of mercy

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

God of love and mercy, we are gathered here in your name. Reveling in the warmth of that absolute and unconditional love, and enjoying the grace of mercy. We find it hard to respond to that love and mercy with equal vigor, dear God. Please be with us today and strengthen us so we can reflect that love unto others. Amen!

***THE OPENING HYMN #467**

“How Great Thou Art”

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (John Calvin 1542)**

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

O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and deplore our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, with true penitence, entreating that your grace may relieve our distress. Have compassion and mercy on us, Lord. And as you remove our guilt and our pollution, grant us the daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, that, acknowledging our own unrighteousness, we may be touched with sorrow that will translate into true repentance, and that, removing all sins within us, your Spirit may produce the fruits of holiness and righteousness well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***THE ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News of the Gospel

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

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

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

***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 Psalm 121

THE GOSPEL LESSON John 3:1-17

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “The Gospel Truth”

Pastor Hyiwot

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #319 “Spirit”**

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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 #80 **“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”** *Choir*

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

Giving God, we are thankful for the wondrous gift of life. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time and labor, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. 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 LORD’S SUPPER

The Invitation

The Words of Institution and Prayer

The Distribution of the Elements

Communion Song #521 **“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”** *(Choir)*

The Deacons Offering

The Prayer after Communion

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***THE CLOSING HYMN #315** **“Every Time I Feel The Spirit”**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE** **“Forty Days and Forty Nights”**

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	SOCIAL HOUR
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	10:00 AM	ADMIN MEETING
THURSDAY	7:00 PM	CHOIR
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP
	12:00 PM	MISSION/STEWARDSHIP MEETING
	1:00 PM	GENEVENS

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Koch, Price

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 & 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.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS It's still winter...but spring is near. It's Lent...but we're pointed toward Easter. Keep us hopeful, Lord.

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.

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 2023. Please fill in your name and the dedication for the person or persons the flowers are for, as you wish it to appear in the bulletin. Silk flowers are \$15 (which goes to Saturday's Kitchen) and the cost for real flowers is \$35. Thanks!

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 for 2023 is in the hallway by the flower charts. Please fill in your name and name the person/s to whom the lighting is dedicated as you wish it to appear in the bulletin. There is no cost.

THANK YOU to Pat Betts for serving as liturgist today.

THANK YOU to Jennifer Kist for serving as organist today.

THE FLOWERS this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by Ken Cruse in honor of his wife, Isabel Cruse, on her 87th birthday today.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: Pastor Hyiwot is teaching the Tuesday Bible study sessions for the Lenten season. We will study Jesus' parables over seven sessions, ending our studies the Tuesday before Easter. Sessions run 10:30-11:30 AM. All are invited and strongly encouraged to join these sessions.

THE CAMBRIA CO. BACKPACK PROJECT provides weekend meals throughout the year for students in eight local school districts and Mom's House. Volunteers meet at the lower back parking lot at the Learning Lamp building on Bedford St. to pack meals on Monday afternoons. Please consider helping the Deacons to pack on **Monday, March 13th at 4:00 pm**. The site is very well organized, and it will only take an hour of your time.

EASTER TREE PROJECT You are invited to put a smile on a child's face through our Deacons' Easter Egg Project, coordinated with Children and Youth Services. The Easter Egg Tree will be placed in the sanctuary next Sunday, March 12th. The paper eggs will list a gift category, an age group or size and a gender. Take the top egg, sign your name to the bottom egg & return the signed egg to the tree. Gifts are to be unwrapped and should be returned to the church by Sunday, March 26th. They will be delivered that week to CYS. The Deacons thank you in advance for your generosity!

COMING NEXT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15th

CHORAL CONCERT & SOUP SALE: The Board of Deacons will be having a Soup Sale on Wednesday, March 15th from 5:00 till 6:30. The cost is \$8.00 for a quart. Place your orders early so we have an idea of the count and to reserve yours! **PennWest Clarion University Concert Choir** will present a free concert here at First Church at 7:00 PM. Come for the soup and stay for the concert! Please spread the word. Thank you.

RUTH FISHER'S 100th BIRTHDAY is March 22nd. Her family has asked us to join in the celebration by participating in a birthday card blitz. Let's honor this special lady! Her address is: 1670 Legacy Pkwy East #241 Maplewood, MN 55109

EASTER FLOWERS: It's not too early to think about Easter flowers! Easter Sunday is April 9th, and the nursery asks us to turn in our order **by Friday, March 24th**. 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 were printed in the March issue of *The Vision*.

“ASK ABOUT OUR PRAY-AS-YOU-GO PLAN”
“ROTO REVIEW” (Reach Out To Others)

Pastor: Rev. Hyiwot Teshome
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CHURCH:

Phone: (814) 536-8141

Email: 1stpresjohnstown@gmail.com

Website: www.1stpresjohnstown.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