

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.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

Rev. Hyiwot Teshome • Pat Betts, *Liturgist*

10:45 AM

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16). May you sense that divine love through this time of worship. 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 PRELUDE

“In These Days of Lenten Journey” (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 107)

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord

People: For his steadfast love endures forever

Leader: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so

People: He is good, for he has redeemed us from trouble,

All: We worship him with joy and gratefulness.

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Lifegiving God, your sacrificial love is so overwhelming that we sometimes feel we don't deserve it, that it may be too costly to accept it. Your promise of undying love makes it abundantly clear your death doesn't cost us anything but gratefulness for the renewal of our lives. We thank you for loving us and we commit to you now to follow you in love and supplication. We say this in Jesus' name, amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #356 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

Dear God, we confess that we often forget that everything we have is a gift from you. Instead of being grateful for your generosity, we complain and worry as though your blessings are not enough. We acknowledge that our lack of trust in your goodness is a result of our sin. Please forgive us for our ungratefulness and help us to trust in your promises that never fail. Remind us that we are always in your loving care, and show us how to live our lives in a way that reflects the fullness of your love for all people. Thank you for your grace and mercy. 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 **Numbers 21:4-9**

THE GOSPEL LESSON **John 3:1-21**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE **“Reborn By Love”**

Rev. Hyiwot Teshome

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #85 “What Wondrous Love Is This”**

***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 **“Lonesome Valley/We Shall Walk”** *arr. Mabry/Schwarz*
Jesus walked this lonesome valley. He had to walk it by Himself. Oh, nobody else could walk it for Him. He had to walk it by Himself. We shall walk through the valley in peace. We shall walk through the valley in peace. Oh, if Jesus Himself will be our leader, we shall walk through the valley in peace. We must walk through the valley in peace. We must walk through the valley in peace. Oh, Jesus Himself will be our leader. We must walk through the valley in peace. Walk in peace.

***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.

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***THE CLOSING HYMN #280 “Amazing Grace”**

***THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE **“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”**

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	MISSION/STEWARDSHIP
MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	10:00 AM	ADMIN
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Gallagher, Kearns

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.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS As Nicodemus did (John 3), I bring all my questions to you, Jesus. Thank you for welcoming me — and my quandaries — always.

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.

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.

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”.

THANK YOU to Pat Betts for serving as liturgist this morning.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by Pat Betts in honor of her granddaughter, Courtney, whose birthday was March 2nd, and in honor of her son Dave, whose birthday is March 19th.

EASTER TREE PROJECT You are invited help local children with clothing and diapers through the Deacons’ Easter Egg Project, coordinated with Children and Youth Services. The Easter Egg Tree has paper eggs which will list a size, gender, and category. 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 31st. They will be delivered that week to CYC. The Deacons thank you in advance for your generosity!

EASTER FLOWERS: Easter Sunday is March 31st, and the nursery asks us to turn in our order **by March 13th.** Please turn in your Easter flower orders today. 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*.

MISSION/STEWARDSHIP will meet today after worship.

OGHS OFFERING: we will receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering** in two weeks on **Palm Sunday, March 24th.** Envelopes were included with the March Vision and are available at the church entrances. These offerings support the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self-Development of People.

“IT'S NOT WHO WE ARE BUT WHOSE WE ARE”

“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

Class of 2024

Pat Betts

Chuck Benson

THE SESSION

Class of 2025

Richard Feller

Roy Gindlesperger

Charnet Koch

Gary Mapes

Class of 2026

Michelle Bragg

Donna Cauffiel

John Foster

Joyce Gerlach

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2024

Carla Davis

Agnes Gindlesperger

Class of 2025

Wendi Sokira

Class of 2026

John Reitz

Maria Tiffany

Wendy Vickroy