

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 of Lent

March 19, 2023 Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Joyce Gerlach, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Welcome to worship. May God's Word help us each see something or someone in a new way today. 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 "There Jesus Hung Upon the Cross"

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 come seeking Jesus, the Light of the world

People: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus,

Leader: Jesus Christ turns darkness into light

People: Let the light shine in the darkness

ALL: LET US WORSHIP GOD.

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

God of love and mercy, we are gathered here in your name. Expectant and eager for your insights on how we can see you and how we can believe and engage others into believing in you. Embolden us to face the naysayers and the ones that push back with the truth of your kingdom. Amen!

***THE OPENING HYMN** pg. 59 in *The Hymns We Sing* "Open The Eyes of My Heart"

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

Holy Jesus, we confess that we fail to question our own sightlessness. Believing that we “see,” We miss the truths you would teach us. With the light of your love, cure this blindness. Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings, our own failures, and our own faults. For it is only when we see ourselves clearly that we can worship you truly. In the name of Jesus, we pray. 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 23

THE GOSPEL LESSON John 9:1-41

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “Believing is Seeing”

Pastor Hyiwot

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #280 “Amazing Grace”**

***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 #172 “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

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

God of grace, you provide for all our needs. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ’s ministry and mission among the poor, the despairing and the destitute. 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 #324 “Open My Eyes That I May See”**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE “From the Depths We Cry to Thee”**

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	12:00 PM	3rd SUNDAY PROGRAM & LUNCH
MONDAY	5:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT TROOP #30207
	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	6:00 PM	SESSION MEETING
THURSDAY	7:00 PM	CHOIR
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Ayres, 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 & 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.

PLEASE BE SURE to fill out the Caring Cards, located in each pew, and place them in the offering plate. Also, "joys and concerns" prayer cards are in the pews for you fill out and give to a deacon during the offering.

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.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS God, as I encounter others at worship today, help me look on their hearts, as you do. Then lead me to share a caring word.

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 sign-up 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 Joyce Gerlach 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 Bill & Lynne Williams in loving memory of Leah Williams, who passed on to her heavenly reward 5 years ago today.

THE CHRIST CANDLE has been lit this morning in loving memory of Leah Williams, on the 5th anniversary of her passing, March 19, 2018, by Bill and Lynne Williams.

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.

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 **next Sunday, March 26th**. They will be delivered that week to CYS. The Deacons thank you in advance for your generosity!

RUTH FISHER'S 100th BIRTHDAY is **this Wednesday, March 22nd**. Her family has asked us to join in the celebration by participating in a birthday card blitz. Let's honor her milestone birthday. Be sure to mail out a card to her if you haven't yet! Her address is: 1670 Legacy Pkwy East #241

Maplewood, MN 55109

THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM & LUNCH Join us today at noon as we welcome Atty. Lauren Presser for a discussion on legacy planning. Hope to see you there!

EASTER FLOWERS: Easter Sunday is April 9th, and the nursery asks us to turn in our order by **this 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*.

SESSION WILL MEET at 6:00 PM this Wednesday, March 22nd. Session Members: Meeting agenda & reports are in your mailboxes in the library.

THE 5¢ A MEAL OFFERING will be received next Sunday, March 26th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK: Our Holy Week services begin with the Palm Sunday service on 04/02, to be followed by our Maundy Thursday service on 04/06. We will start that evening with a light meal and communion that we will share together at about 6:30, to be followed by a short service in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM. We will have a Tenebrae service on Good Friday in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM. We will then close out our Holy Week with our Easter celebration on Sunday, 04/09.

"GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING GOOD"
"ROTO REVIEW" (Reach Out To Others)

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CHURCH:

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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