

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.

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024 Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Wendi Sokira, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Hosanna in the highest! Welcome as we bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord! 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 / PROCESSIONAL #90 “Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.*

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** *Based on Psalm 118*

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord

People: His steadfast love endures forever

Leader: Let Israel confidently and joyously say

People: His steadfast love endures forever,

All: Hosanna! He has come to save us. Hosanna!

***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** pg. 61 in *The Hymns We Sing*

“The Palms”

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

God of Mercy, we gather here today in prayer, humility, and anticipation at the start of the Holy Week of Lent. As we turn our hearts toward Jerusalem, and your triumphant entry into that holy city, we confess that our sins continue to bog us down on that road to redemption. Forgive our trembling, faltering and clumsy walk with you and inspire us to endeavor to be worthy companions. We ask for your forgiveness and inspiration as we seek redemption in your Son. 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”**

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 118:1-2, 19-29

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 11:1-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HOMILY

“Where Is The Triumph?”

Pastor Hyiwot

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, 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

“Lo, He Comes”

John D. Horman

Refrain: Lo, he comes! Sing we “Hosanna!” Lo, he comes, let us sing to the Lord! Lo, he comes! Sing we “Hosanna!” Lo, he comes, let us sing to the Lord! Enter his gates with shouts of thanksgiving, Into his courts with songs of praise. Come, let us march in glad procession. Loud hosannas now we raise. [Refrain] Open your heart and welcome the Savior. Join with the song that has no end. This is the day for which we have waited; the coming of our Lord is surely at hand. [Refrain]

***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 #89**

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE**

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

(Teschner)

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

MONDAY	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
	1:00 PM	WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	BIBLE STUDY
	7:00 PM	CHOIR
WEDNESDAY	6:00 PM	SESSION
THURSDAY	6:15 PM	LIGHT MEAL
	7:00 PM	MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP
GOOD FRIDAY	7:00 PM	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
EASTER SUNDAY	---	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
	8:30 AM	EARLY SERVICE EASTER WORSHIP
	After worship	EASTER BREAKFAST
	10:45 AM	EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP



PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Gerlach, Noon

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: We praise you, Jesus Messiah! Keep us faithful as we follow you, even to the cross.

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. 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 morning at 10:30 AM as Pastor Hyiwot leads the final lesson of the six-week session based on Dr. A.J. Levin's "The Gospel of Mark".

THE CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING is dedicated by Pat Betts in honor of her sister, Shirley Harkcom, who celebrated a birthday on March 20th.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by the McGormley, Conlan, Fisher, Koch, and Fisher-Dana families as a birthday commemoration in honor and loving memory of Ruth Fisher, whose birthday was March 22nd, and Rev. Dr. Carl S. Fisher, whose birthday was April 1st.

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 CY5. The Deacons thank you in advance for your generosity!

THANK YOU to Wendi Sokira for serving as liturgist today.

THANK YOU to Gary McClelland for serving as organist today.

OGHS OFFERING: we will receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering today**. Envelopes are available at the church entrances. These offerings support the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self-Development of People. See the enclosed flyer for more information. PLEASE BE SURE TO WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE ENVELOPE to have your giving properly credited.

5-CENTS-A-MEAL: We will receive the 5-Cents-A-Meal offering next week on Easter Sunday, March 31st.

T-SHIRT, SWEATSHIRT ORDERS from FX Graphics are in and have been placed on the library table.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE: Our Maundy Thursday services start at 6:15 PM in the social hall with a light meal. We will then proceed to the Sanctuary for our service of the Lord's Supper and symbolic foot-washing at our 7:00 PM worship. Our Good Friday Service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM on March 29th. We will then close out our Holy Week with our Easter celebration on Sunday, March 31st. We will have an early service at 8:30 AM followed by breakfast, then our traditional Easter service at 10:45 AM.

MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL/ EASTER BREAKFAST: Please call the office or use the sign-up sheet in the office as soon as possible if you plan to attend the Maundy Thursday meal and/or the Easter morning breakfast, so those who are preparing have a better idea for meal planning. Thank you!

“BET ON THE MAN RIDING THE DONKEY”
“ROTO REVIEW” (Reach Out To Others)

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CHURCH:

Phone: (814) 536-8141

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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