

# First Presbyterian Church

309 Lincoln Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15901



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*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.*

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## Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024    Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Richard Feller, *Liturgist*    10:45 A.M.

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**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** Alleluia! As the Risen Jesus greeted Mary (John 20:16), so he greets us. Welcome to Easter worship! 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**

“Voluntary I”

*John Stanley*

**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: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Leader: Praise God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: He has given us a new life and hope through the risen Lord**

**ALL: Let the faithful come and worship God.**

**\*THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**Lord God, You loved this world so much, that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Amen.**

**\*THE OPENING HYMN #123**    “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

**\*THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Begin in silence, reading over the Prayer of Confession and preparing to pray it together.*  
**Savior God, forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment of others; the way we evaluate and compare. Forgive our habits that demean and degrade, our addiction to violent and destructive behavior. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ. Amen.**

**\*THE ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

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

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

**\*THE RESPONSE #579      “Glory Be To The Father”**

**\*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      Isaiah 53:1-9**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON                  John 20:1-18**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**THE HOMILY                                  “Why The Cross?”                                  *Pastor Hyiwot***

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE page 8 in *The Hymns We Sing*      “Because He Lives”**

**\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH    *Book of Worship***

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

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

**THE ANTHEM                                  “Crown Him, the Risen King”                                  *Lloyd Larson***

*All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing: “Christ is risen! Christ is risen!” O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph ever more. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! His Kingdom cannot fail; He rules o’er earth and heav’n; the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv’n. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne. Hark! How the heav’nly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee, and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity. Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o’er the grave, and rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save; His glories now we sing who died and rose on high, Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die. All creatures of our God and King, Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!”*

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

God of the empty tomb, your grace astounds us, your generosity fills us to overflowing. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ’s behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ’s spirit. 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 #118 “Day of Resurrection” (to the tune of #89)**

**\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*THE POSTLUDE “Jesus Is Risen (All Creatures of Our God and King)”**

*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**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>NAR-ANON</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>DEACONS</b>
	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>CHOIR</b>
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
	<b>10:45 AM</b>	<b>MISSION SUNDAY WORSHIP</b>
	<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>COFFEE SOCIAL/BPs</b>

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Ayres, Reitz**



**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.

**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.

**THANK YOU** to Richard Feller for serving as liturgist today.

**FOCUS ON PRAYERS** "This is the day of the Lord's victory; let us be happy, let us celebrate!" (Psalm 118:24)

**5-CENTS-A-MEAL:** We will receive the 5-Cents-A-Meal offering today.

**MISSION SUNDAY** Next Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, our congregation will observe Mission Sunday. The Mission/Stewardship Committee has invited Rev. Chuck MacPherson to bring the morning message.

**THE DEACONS** are holding a **Chicken & Biscuit Dinner** on **Wed., April 17<sup>th</sup>**. More info to come.

**CARING COMMITTEE** Please see the questionnaire & ballot box located at the bulletin board on the Lincoln Street entrance. Please prayerfully consider the questions and place your reply in the ballot box.

**ELECTRONIC RECYCLING** First Presbyterian Church is giving you the opportunity to rid your home of old, outdated electronics. Session has approved the participation in a recycling drive that is benefiting the Windber Public Library. Items eligible for recycling are televisions, monitors, computers, laptops, cell phones, and printers. These are the only items that will be accepted. Items may be brought to the church any time prior to April 16, 2024, and placed in the Willow Room in the church basement. There will be NO pickups provided. Remember, all items must be at the church no later than Tuesday, April 16, 2024. No items will be accepted after that date.

**"IN HIS DEATH, WE WALK IN NEW LIFE"**  
**"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

