

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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023 Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Wendi Sokira, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP You are a royal priesthood, God's own people. Welcome to worship, that we may proclaim the mighty acts of God, who called us into his marvelous light. (*Based on 1 Peter 2:9.*) 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

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”

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 31)

Leader: We seek refuge in God's righteousness

People: He is a rock for us, a strong fortress

Leader: Redeem us, Oh, Lord, faithful God

People: Deliver us from the hand of our enemies and persecutors

ALL: Let us worship the redeeming and protecting God!

THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

Redeeming God, protect and shelter us as we go out into the world to share the Good News. Do not let our hearts be troubled and open our eyes so we may see you in the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In the name of the one that promises to prepare a place for us in your house, for ever and ever, Amen.

*THE OPENING HYMN pg. 24 in *The Hymns We Sing* “Gather Us In”

*THE CALL TO CONFESSION

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

Risen Lord, while you came as a sacrifice for our sin, we confess to you that we have not lived up to that sacrifice. We lack faith to reciprocate your act of love. We turn away from reflecting your atoning righteousness unto others. Lord, in your mercy, hear our confession of sin against you. We pray in the name of the Risen Lord, 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 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

THE GOSPEL LESSON John 14:1-14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “The Great Bargain”

Pastor Hyiwot

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #341 “Blessed Assurance”**

***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 #553 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

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

For those who have no place to rest, may our gifts provide shelter. For those who hunger for justice, may our generosity satisfy that hankering. For those that are suffering, may our offerings deliver them solace. For those who are suffering, may we give ourselves as companions on that journey. For those who are alone and afraid, may our blessings bring forth a loving and caring community. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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 #513 "Let Us Break Bread Together" (Choir)

The Deacons Offering

The Prayer after Communion

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***THE CLOSING HYMN pg. 11 in *The Hymns We Sing* "Be Not Dismayed"**

***THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

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	BIBLE STUDY
	6:00 PM	MY LIFE
WEDNESDAY	10:00 AM	ADMIN MEETING
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP – MOTHER'S DAY
	7:00 PM	FOREST HILLS COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Anderson, Gustafson

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 off this Tuesday to attend “Women In The Woods” at Pine Springs. She will return to the office Thursday at 9:00 AM. 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.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS: Risen Jesus, as spring blossoms around me, may your love blossom in me, that I might share its fragrance and brilliance with others. Amen.

THE GENEVENS Because of conflicts with Easter and Mother’s Day, The Genevens will skip their April and May meetings. The next meeting will be held Sunday, June 11th, 1:00 PM, at the Boulevard Grill.

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 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 \$45. 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.

FOREST HILLS COMMUNITY BAND will hold a concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, May 14, at 7:00 PM. There is no cost to attend. You may remember their performance from last spring or from the Festival of the Nativity. Our own Sheila Farrer is a member of the band. We hope to see you there!

THE DEACONS are holding a **Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner** on **Wednesday, May 17**, from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Take-outs are available at 4:00 PM, Dinner served at 4:30 PM. Dinner includes Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Bread, and Dessert. Call the church at 814-536-8141 to RSVP for take-out or eat-in. The cost of the dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 & under.

THERE ARE SIX NARCAN NASAL SPRAYS available for opiate overdose emergencies located in 1) the office on the right side of the fireplace mantle; 2) on top of the first aid station in the hallway near the parlor entrance; 3) at the Deacon’s station in the back of the sanctuary; 4) in the kitchen in the drawer under the phone; 5) Pat’s office; and 6) Pastor Hyiwot’s office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL will resume next Sunday at 9:30 AM.

PENTECOST GERANIUMS: Pentecost is May 28th this year. Please remember to order your geraniums by next Sunday, May 14th. The order will be placed with the greenhouse the week of May 15th. Order forms were in the May Vision and are available at the church entrances.

THANK YOU to Wendi Sokira for serving as liturgist today.

“THE BEST VITAMIN FOR A CHRISTIAN IS B1”

“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