

# 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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## Mother's Day

May 14, 2023      Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Wendi Sokira, *Liturgist*      10:45 A.M.

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**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** Welcome to worship! Today we acknowledge mothers and special mother-figures in our lives — thank God for you! 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**

"The Sands of Time"

*D'Urhan*

**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: Our Lord is the giver of peace

**People: Thanks be to God**

Leader: Our God's peace is everlasting

**People: We praise this giving God**

Leader: We joyously accept this peace

**People: We praise God for this unconditional gift**

**ALL: Let us worship God!**

**THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**Advocating God, you have gifted us the one that stands next to us. Keep this helper and peace giver by our side to protect our troubled hearts. 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 #324**      "Open My Eyes That I May See"

\***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

## **\*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

**Peace giving God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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 67**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON**                    **John 14:15-29**

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**THE MESSAGE**                            **“Mother’s Day Gifts”**

*Pastor Hyiwot*

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #319**        **“Spirit”**

## **\*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.*

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**\*THE CLOSING HYMN #315 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"**

**\*THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**\*THE POSTLUDE "Moderato in G Major" Walczynski**

*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 7:00 PM FOREST HILLS COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT**
- MONDAY 6:30 PM NAR-ANON**
- TUESDAY 10:30 AM BIBLE STUDY**
- WEDNESDAY 4:30 PM SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER**
- SATURDAY 7:30 PM JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES – THREE RIVERS RINGERS**
- NEXT SUNDAY 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- 10:45 AM WORSHIP**

**After worship THIRD SUNDAY PROGRAM & LUNCH**

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Cruse, Thiel**

**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:** God of strong and tender love, thank you for those who have shown me your love in motherly ways, and for the opportunities I have to care for others. Amen.

**JOHNSTOWN CONCERT SERIES:** Come out for a performance by the Three Rivers Ringers, Pittsburgh's premier community handbell ensemble this Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

**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 tonight 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!

**JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>,** after worship for our Third Sunday Program & Lunch. **Pastor Hyiwot** will be our speaker. He will talk about his life story - how he grew up in Ethiopia, what led him to come to this country and how he ended up in ministry. He will also talk about his call to FPC and how he hopes to expand it into the community that surrounds FPC.

**THE DEACONS are holding a Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner** this **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.

**PENTECOST GERANIUMS:** Pentecost is May 28<sup>th</sup> this year. Please order your geraniums TODAY. The order will be placed with the greenhouse the week of May 15<sup>th</sup>. Order forms were in the May Vision and are available at the church entrances.

**THE FLOWERS** this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and placed honor and memory of our congregation's mothers on this Mothers' Day.

**THE CHRIST CANDLE** has been lit today to honor all mothers in our congregation.

**THANK YOU** to Wendi Sokira for serving as liturgist today.

**THANK YOU** to Gary McClelland for serving as organist today.

**"A MOTHER IS SOMEONE YOU LOOK UP TO, NO MATTER HOW TALL YOU GROW"**

"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