

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.

21st Sunday After Pentecost

October 22, 2023 Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Patricia Betts, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP From the rising of the sun and from the west ... there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other” (Isaiah 45:6, NRSV). We gather to praise you, Lord God! 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 “Prelude on *Cwm Rhondda (God of Grace)*” *Paul Manz*

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 99*

L: The Lord is King!

P: He is exalted over all the peoples.

L: Extol the Lord our God.

P: Worship at his footstool.

ALL: Let us now praise His great name.

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Loving God, dwell amongst us as we prepare to worship and praise you. Strengthen us as we embark on doing the work you have set before us. Soften our hearts as we open our eyes to see the desperate needs of others in front of us, Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN** pg. 48 in *The Hymns We Sing* “Lord, Be Glorified” (x2)

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ 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”**

***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 45:1-7

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 22:15-22

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “On The Heart”

Rev. Hywiot Teshome

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE pg. 13 in *The Hymns We Sing* “Blessed Assurance”**

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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

“Rain Down”

Cortez/Carter

“Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people, --- rain down your love, God of life. Faithful and true is the word of our God. All of God’s works are so worthy of trust. God’s mercy falls on the just and the right; full of God’s love is the earth. --- We who revere and find hope in our God live in the kindness and joy of God’s wing. God will protect us from darkness and death; God will not leave us to starve. --- God of creation, we long for your truth; you are the water of life for our thirst. Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts, all our hope lies in you ---.”

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

Giving Lord, grateful for your abundant and steadfast love, we present these small gifts to you. Use them, O God, to bring peace and fulfilment for our sisters and brothers as we work to bring forth your kingdom here on earth. 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 pg. 63 in *The Hymns We Sing* “Shine, Jesus, Shine”**

***THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE**

“Postlude on *Gregorian Mode VI*”

M. Sprinkle

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	Brief DEACON’S MEETING
MONDAY	1:00 PM	WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION
	6:30 PM	NAR-ANON
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	5:00 PM	SESSION
THURSDAY	7:00 PM	CHOIR
NEXT SUNDAY	9:30 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:45 AM	WORSHIP
	After worship	CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Hanley, Morales

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.

THE DEACONS will meet briefly after worship today.

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 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.

FOCUS ON PRAYERS “Wrap us in your warmth like a quilt, O God of love. As days grow colder in the northern hemisphere, make our hearts burn with your love for one another.”

THE FLOWER CHARTS are up in the hallway to the Parlor. 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. There is no cost.

THANK YOU to Pat Betts for serving as liturgist today.

THANK YOU to Matthew Sprinkle for serving as guest organist this Sunday and last.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are dedicated to the glory of God and have been placed by Tom Koch in honor of Charnet Koch, in celebration of their 46th wedding anniversary today.

PASTOR HYIWOT has now been cleared to assist with visitations at Cambria County Prison in Ebensburg. If you know anyone who needs a pastoral visit there, please let Pastor Hyiwot know.

THANKSGIVING DINNER: We will once again host a family-style dinner at noon on Thanksgiving, Nov. 23rd. We would like reservations so we can plan accordingly, but they are not a must. Please call the church office by November 16th at 814-536-8141. Takeouts are available but must be picked up at 11:00 AM. Please invite anyone you think may be spending Thanksgiving alone.

THE FESTIVAL OF THE NATIVITY is fast approaching – a little over 5 weeks away! It is not too soon to consider how you can help with this year’s Festival. We are looking for volunteers!

AS THE WEATHER GETS COLDER, please try to remember to keep all the hallway doors closed to conserve energy and keep the heat in!

THE SESSION will meet early this Wednesday to review the training video for the AED, prior to our regular meeting. **Please plan to be there at 5:00.** Coffee will be available. We will meet in the Parlor for this portion of our meeting.

THE SESSION HAS CALLED A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING for **next Sunday, October 29th**, immediately after worship, for the purpose of electing Ruling Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2026 and acting on the pastor’s Terms of Call for 2024.

“HOW ABOUT YOUR FAMILY JOINING OUR FAMILY?”

“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