

# 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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## 23rd Sunday After Pentecost

November 5, 2023    Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, *Pastor* • Charnet Koch, *Liturgist* 10:45 A.M.

**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** “Let [us] give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds” (Psalm 107:8, NIV). Welcome to 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**                    “For All The Saints”

**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.*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** *Based on Psalm 107*

L: O give thanks to the Lord.

**P: For his steadfast love endures forever.**

L: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.

**P: For we have been redeemed from trouble.**

**ALL: We give thanks and come to worship the good Lord.**

\***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH** *Based on Psalm 43*

**Leading God, send us your light and your truth; let them lead us; let them bring us to your holy hill and to your dwelling, so we may join you in your service to your children Amen.**

\***THE OPENING HYMN #404 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”**

\***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** Micah 3:5-12

**THE GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 23:1-12

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

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**THE MESSAGE** “Practice Makes Perfect” *Rev. Hyiwot Teshome*

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE #427 “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”**

**\*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** “We Remember You” *Walt Harrah*  
*We remember you, we remember you; by your sacrifice of love all glory now is due. At this table here mercy hovers near. Thanks is offered up; in this bread and cup we remember you. Precious, risen Lamb, Jesus who was slain, now enthroned in glory, forever you will reign. Gladly we embrace both these signs of grace. Thanks is offered up; in this bread and cup we remember 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.*

**THE SEALING OF THE WORD**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**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 #369 “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”**

**\*THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**\*THE POSTLUDE “Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven”**

*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>TODAY</b>	<b>after worship</b>	<b>SOCIAL HOUR/BPs</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>NAR-ANON</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</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>WORSHIP - DEDICATION SUNDAY</b>

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: McCleary, Haughie**

**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 on 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.

**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.

**PLEASE BE SURE to fill out the Caring Cards**, located in each pew, and place them in the offering plate. Also, "joys and concerns" prayer cards are in the pews for you fill out and give to a deacon during the offering.

**THE FLOWER CHARTS** are up in the hallway to the Parlor and are ready to fill in. Silk flowers are \$15 (which goes to Saturday's Kitchen) and **the cost for real flowers has increased to \$45.**

**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 sign up chart is in the hallway by the flower charts. There is no cost.

**The Deacons are holding a T-shirt, Sweatshirt, hat sale.** This is **NOT a fundraiser.** There will be short and long-sleeved t-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts and baseball caps. Orders can be placed online. If you are unable to do an online order, Caroline has graciously offered to do the online ordering in the office. You can give her your order and information. The orders begin now and will finish the Sunday after Thanksgiving. (Nov.26). Delivery will be before Christmas. The website to place your order is <https://firstpresbyterianchurch2023.itemorder.com/> See the forms at the church entrances.

**THANK YOU** to Charnet Koch for serving as liturgist today.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are dedicated to the glory of God and are presented by Janet Braude as a birthday remembrance in honor of her husband, Buzz Braude.

**THE CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING** this morning is dedicated by Wendi Sokira, in loving memory of her mother, Donna Mapes, who passed to eternal rest November 4, 2005.

**THANKSGIVING DINNER:** We will once again host a family-style dinner at noon on Thanksgiving, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. We would like reservations so we can plan accordingly, but they are not a must. Please call the church office by November 16<sup>th</sup> 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 – less than a month away, beginning December 1st! Won't you please consider how you can help with this year's Festival? We are looking for volunteers!

**NEW LUMINARIES** we will have new luminaries this year that are available for you to sponsor. You may sponsor a luminary in memory of or in honor of a loved one. The cost of sponsorship is \$7 per luminary or 3 for \$20. We will label each luminary with your name and the name of your loved one. The forms are available in the November Vision, or contact Caroline in the office.

**YOUR DONATIONS** of snack breads will be needed for the Festival of the Nativity. You can place your breads in the freezer or bring them in and we can throw them in the freezer for you. We will also be accepting crackers and cheeseballs, all for the refreshment table. Thank you!

**WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** invites Veterans of our church and their spouse or guest to a dinner to honor their military service. The dinner will take place on Saturday, November 11th at 6:00 pm at Westmont Church's Fellowship Hall, 601 Luzerne Street. Social hour will start at 5:30 pm. To make a reservation, please call their church office at 814-536-0796 tomorrow, November 6. Their office hours are 10 am -3pm.

**DEDICATION SUNDAY,** We will dedicate our pledges next **Sunday, November 12.** The Bible teaches that God owns everything. The heavens and the earth are in His hands. All we have belongs to God. How much will we keep for ourselves?

**WOMEN'S THANK OFFERING SUNDAY,** with guest preacher Danielle Kendig is in 2 weeks, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Offering envelopes were included in the November Vision.

**“WALK WITH THE LORD - YOU'LL NEVER BE OUT OF STEP”**

“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