

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.

Women's Thank Offering Sunday

November 19, 2023

Danielle Kendig, *Guest Preacher*

10:45 A.M.

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Welcome to our Women's Thank Offering Sunday worship, as together we give God praise for his countless blessings — not least his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. 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

“Sortie on *We Gather Together*”

Matthew Sprinkle

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 146*

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

People: I will sing praises to God all my life long.

Leader: Happy are those whose help is in God, creator of heaven and earth,
who is forever faithful;

People: seeking justice for the oppressed and for the hungry;

Leader: setting prisoners free and opening the eyes of the blind;

People: lifting up those who are bowed down and loving the righteous.

Leader: The Lord protects strangers and upholds the orphan and widow;

People: but the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.

Leader: The Lord our God will reign forever, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

All: Amen.

***THE PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Gracious God, you have called us together in this place and time. Revealing God, in this time of song and prayer and worship, reveal to us, the ways in which you have worked in the lives of the women who have come before us. Amen.

***THE OPENING HYMN #600 “The Song of Mary”**

***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 1 Kings 17:8-16

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 12:38-44

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE “Influential Women of the Bible” *Danielle Kendig*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***THE HYMN OF RESPONSE** “For The Fruit of All Creation” *see insert*

***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 **“Canticle of Thanksgiving”** Dale Wood

“Creator of glory, all seasons Thy story, the roses, the rivers, the ridges, Thy mirth. The straining of power, of eons each hour, all heavens o’er meadows, old signs of rebirth. The weeping in willows, all children in pillows, all valleys, all oceans, Thy spaces of birth. Thy blossoms unfolding, all angels beholding, with morning and darkness renewing Thy earth. In quaking and thunder, when life breaks asunder, in pain and in sorrow, all death is Thy door. Thy table of prizes in daily surprises, our souls only feasting Thy treasure and store. Through silence and wonder our spirits would ponder, a sight of the brightness which saints now adore. Thy loves comes escaping while watching and waiting, our hearts overflowing adore Thee, adore. Thy beauty so tender, we live in Thy splendor, O send us the life of the lamb on the throne. Come, visit our tables, our castles and stables, till nothing and no one be ever alone. Come father, come mother, come sister, come brother, the cup is o’er-flowing, the harvest is done. Rise up O partaker! Give praise to the Maker. The banquet is set in the midst of the Son.”

***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, oh God, to bring peace and fulfillment to 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 #467 “How Great Thou Art”**

***THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION**

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE “Now Thank We All Our God” Sigfried Karg-Elert**

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

- MONDAY 6:30 PM NAR-ANON**
- THURSDAY 11:00 AM TAKEOUTS for THANKSGIVING DINNER**
- 12:00 PM THANKSGIVING DINNER**
- FRIDAY ----- OFFICE CLOSED**
- NEXT SUNDAY 9:30 PM SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- 10:45 AM WORSHIP – CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Bash, 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 not be in the office this week.

VISION & HEARING ASSISTANCE Large print hymnals and wireless hearing devices are available from the Deacons.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS from the grocery store or Walmart for the Deacons. They are donated to the Backpack Project to pack lunches for area children.

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.

The Deacons are holding a T-shirt, Sweatshirt, hat sale. This is **NOT a fundraiser.** There will be t-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts and 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 next Sunday. 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 Matthew Sprinkle for serving as organist again this Sunday.

THANK YOU to Danielle Kending for serving as guest preacher on our Women's Thank Offering Sunday.

THANK YOU to Pat Betts, Joyce Gerlach and Wendi Sokira for their participation in today's service, also.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and placed by Isabel Cruse in honor of her sister, Janet Braude, who will celebrate her 91st birthday on November 22nd.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS are available at each entrance. The bulk of our order must be placed by November 30th. Please return your form next Sunday or call the office with your order.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be received on Sunday, December 3rd. Envelopes will be in the December Vision and at the entrances. This offering supports two programs: current and retired church workers in financial need and students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Thank you for your generosity.

THANKSGIVING DINNER: We will once again host a family-style dinner **at noon** on Thanksgiving, Nov. 23rd. Takeouts are available but **must be picked up at 11:00 AM.**

THE FESTIVAL OF THE NATIVITY is fast approaching – less than two weeks 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 at the entrances, or contact Caroline in the office.

FESTIVAL YARD SIGNS - A few yard signs have been printed for the Festival of the Nativity. You may take one home and place it in your yard. You can pick them up inside the Lincoln Street Entrance. Bring them back to the church after the Festival. We can use them next year.

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!

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, please plan accordingly.

2024 PLEDGES: If you haven't turned in your pledge card for 2023, you can put it in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office. Extra cards are available at the entrances. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS MISSION: This year we are partnering with Beginnings, Inc. for our Stocking Tree "Bundle Up Babies" project. We are accepting gifts of warm items for boys and girls, sizes newborn through 4T. For example: Coats, snowsuits, scarves, mittens/gloves, hats, sweaters, warm socks. We will also accept disposable diapers, sizes newborn through 5. The tree will be in the corner of the sanctuary next Sunday. If you would like to give a gift, please take & keep the top stocking, then write your name on the bottom stocking and return it to the tree. When you bring in your gift, attach the stocking you kept to it. The gifts must be placed under the tree by Sunday, December 10th for delivery on December 12th. Thank you for your generosity!

SESSION will meet on the last Wednesday of the month, November 29th, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

"IF YOU THINK, YOU'LL THANK"
"ROTO REVIEW" (Reach Out To Others)

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CHURCH:

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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