

The First Presbyterian Church
300 South Main Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
The Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 5, 2024 – 10 a.m.
Simulcast Service

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Suite No. 1 for Cello, Minuet *J. S. Bach*

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing, and give praise to God's name;
tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

✠HYMN 409 God is Here! *ABBOT'S LEIGH*

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (Hymn 582)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING 1 John 5:1-6

ANTHEM O Love *Elaine Hagenberg*
O love, O love, O love that will not let me go, O love, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O joy, that seeks me through the pain, O joy, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain. That morn shall tearless be that morn shall tearless be. O love, O love, that will not let me go, O love, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, I give thee back the life I owe and in thy ocean depths its flow shall richer, fuller be. O love, O love, O love, O love that will not let me go. O love, that will not let me go.

SECOND READING John 15:9-17

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum

✠HYMN 432

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

REPTON

✠THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES' CREED (*unison*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OUR JOYFUL RESPONSE - TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

This Little Light of Mine

Ken Berg

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. Ev'rywhere I go, I'm going to let it shine. Ev'rywhere I go, I'm going to let it shine. Ev'rywhere I go, I'm going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. All through the night, I'm going to let it shine. All through the night, I'm going to let it shine. All through the night, I'm going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. This little light of mine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

✠RESPONSE

Doxology (*hymnal p. 609*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

✠PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Blessing

The Distribution of the Elements

The Prayer following Communion (*unison*)

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠HYMN 536

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

SURGE ECCLESIA

✠BENEDICTION

✠POSTLUDE

Italian Hymn

Albert Travis

✠ *Those who are able to stand comfortably may do so*

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING:

Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor/Head of Staff; Dr. W. Jeffrey Jones, Minister of Music / Organist;

Mrs. Wendy Matchett, Lector; Chancel Choir; Children & Youth Choir; Mr. Edgar B. Highberger, Piano; Ms. Sarah Ferrell, Cello; Mrs. Melissa Dalansky, Video Technician.

Music for this morning's service has been made possible, in part, by Edgar and Joanne Highberger and by gifts to the Dr. Edgar S. Highberger Music Fund.

Music reprinted, podcast, and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-713544. All rights reserved.

FIRST NEWS: The News of FPC

PRAYER LIST: Nick Behun, Lisa Bulger, Art Caramella, George Chambers, Sandy Cole, Dan & Ginger Collier, Beverly & William Courtney, Edna Mary Cox, Bob Dittman, Karen Dubosky, Michael Felice, Debbie Herman, Edgar and Joanne Highberger, Gretchen Highberger, Lucas James, Weston Johnson, Don Kemerer, Marge Machesney, George Maser, Joanne McIlhattan, John Noel, Dan P., Nancy Pallitta, Kathleen Piekut, Gerry Pricer, Susan Ruff, Judy Rugh, Julia Saul, Nancy Skrot, Mary Smith, Nancy Stahl, Eileen Stefl, Crystal Stone, Sonny & Jo Thomas, Lynda Turin, Linda & Tom Turin, Doug Wessling, Don Whipkey, Kathryn Wiley.

VISITING IN WORSHIP TODAY? If you are visiting in worship today or have been for a while, please sign the Visitor Card found in the pew racks and place in the offering plate or hand to an usher. We would love to be able to contact you and answer any questions you may have about FPC. Please take a moment to greet Dr. Ankrum at the end of the service; he would love to get to know you and welcome you to our faith community.

NURSERY OPEN DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL AND WORSHIP – Children, Birth – PreK: Drop off care is available Sunday mornings with Ms. Gali! Pack your child's drinks and snacks and drop them off for the fun! Gali is looking forward to meeting you and your children!

CHILDREN'S RESOURCE TOTES - First Presbyterian Church also provides a comfort room and age-appropriate worship resource totes for families with young children to use during the service. They are in the narthex, or by asking an usher for assistance.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SPONSORING A FELLOWSHIP HOUR? Provide 6 dozen baked goods **or** \$35 donation to cover the cost. Use the sign-up sheet on the Dining Room bulletin board. Your contributions and participation are greatly appreciated. Fellowship Hours are held usually on the first and third Sundays of every month in the Dining Room. Coffee is provided by the Millers of 19 Coffee.

FIRST FRIDAYS: NEWS & UPDATES: If you haven't been receiving our First Fridays: News & Updates, please call Kim at the church office (724-832-0150) to verify and/or update your correct email address.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: A DAILY DEVOTIONAL – By ten o'clock in the morning each day, Monday through Friday, Martin posts a new devotion for the day. Please join in the practice of daily devotion for such a time as this.



DO YOU WISH TO GIVE ONLINE? To set up your own recurring donations, either visit the church website or scan the QR code with your smart phone, or contact the church office for help. Your support of Christ's church in this place is greatly appreciated!

THE WESTMORELAND CHORAL SOCIETY under the direction of Tom Octave concludes its series of "Love" concerts at 3 p.m., TODAY in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary. The concert titled "Spirit of Love" will also feature the WCS Youth Choir. The program will include a broad range of choral styles found in such diverse pieces as 'Festival Sanctus' by John Leavitt, In Virtute Tua by Grzegori Gorczy, 'Sing a Mighty Song' by Daniel Gawthrop, and 'Go Down Moses' by Mark Hayes. Selections also include 'Inscription of Hope' by Randall Stroepe and 'There is Peace' by Jim Papoulis, the latter of which will be performed with the WCS Youth Choir. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15 (Adults), \$10 (Seniors) and \$5 (Students).

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKET OFFERING: MOTHER'S DAY, SUNDAY, MAY 12 - PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ask for your support as we honor our mothers on Church World Service Blanket Sunday, May 12. For many years our congregation has generously contributed to this offering that tells people in crisis around the world, "You are not alone. Someone cares." CWS distributes warm blankets to families around the world (including the United States) recovering from disasters and displacements. For a mere \$10 donation you can provide one of these desperately needed blankets that transforms into a symbol of hope and security as they try to rebuild their lives. Please consider a generous donation to Blanket Sunday. Hebrews 13:16 reminds us, "Don't forget to do good and share with those in need." Thank you for your compassion and support.

THE MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE welcomes you to join them on June 29 at 2:00 p.m. to see "The Color Purple" at the Benedum Center. We have 14 tickets available and we will be offering a ride in the church van. After the theater performance, we will dine at The Juniper Grille in Murrysville. Tickets for the performance are \$70 each and include transportation. Dinner is on your own. Contact Sandy Beauregard (724-834-2247 or 724-331-3457) or email her (sandbeau1@verizon.net) to reserve your spot. We are now collecting payment for tickets.

THE CORNERSTONE GROUP INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM ... We will be dining at the First Wok, 321 West Main Street, Ligonier, on May 11, at 5:30 p.m. This is a Thai/Japanese restaurant that is superb. Please sign-up before May 7 by calling Sandy Beauregard (724-834-2247 or 724-331-3457) or emailing her (sandbeau1@verizon.net) to reserve your spot.

**THE GATHERING – TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024: 11:30 A.M. – 1 P.M.
SCOTT BROWN, JR. – LOCAL AUTHOR**

On the second Tuesday of each month, we reserve space at The Boulevard, a local restaurant and invite those who are available to join us for lunch, conversation and a bit of education. We'll hear from folks that you already know and folks that you haven't yet met. The topics will be informative and helpful to our faith, and some will be just fun and allow us to learn a bit more about each other. **This month we'll hear from Scott Brown Jr., a member of the church and a prolific author. Contact the church office by noon Monday, May 13 to reserve your spot.**

FIELD TRIP, AUG. 17 - We have scheduled a trip to the Dutch Valley in Sugar Creek, Ohio on August 17th. We will be seeing the Sight and Sound production of *Ruth* at the Ohio Star Theater at 1:00 p.m. Prior to the play, we will be dining at the Dutch Valley Restaurant at 11:30 a.m. We will be taking the church van, but only 14 people will be able to ride in it. Since we purchased 21 tickets, several people will need to car pool and follow the van. The trip will take approximately 2 1/2 to 3 hours one way. We will be leaving from the church lot at about 7:45 a.m. and have one comfort stop. After the play ends (3:00 p.m.) there will be time to visit some of the numerous shops on the campus prior to returning. We should be back at the church by 8:00 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$75 per person and the price includes the play, lunch, tax and tip. Payment is needed by August 1st. There are only 7 tickets left! Persons interested in attending should contact Sandy Beauregard (724-834-2247, 724-331-3457, sandbeau1@verizon.net).

Splash in God's Word

VBS 2024 - June 10 – 14; 9 a.m. – Noon

Calling All Volunteers! Water you up to this summer? Do you like to stay current? Looking for a refreshing experience? Water you waiting for? Join in the floods of laughter! VBS is sure to make a big splash!

**If you are not there, you will be mist!
Sea you this summer!**

**Contact Wendy McCann to volunteer today.
Registration for super so-fish-ticated
child participants can be obtained from an usher today.**

YOUTH GROUP NEWS @ FPC

YOUTH GROUP MEETING – Sunday, May 5, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Join us in the youth room for lunch, games and Vacation Bible School planning. Lunch will be provided.

CHURCH LOCK-IN – Join us for games, prizes, karaoke, food and fun on May 17 and 18. Drop off is May 17 at 7:00 p.m. and pick-up is Saturday, May 18 at 8:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Jennifer Slater at 724-217-3448 or jennifer1996slater@gmail.com.

NURSERY NEWS – SUMMER HOURS TO BEGIN!

On May 26, the nursery's summer hours will begin. There will only be drop off care available during the 10am worship hour. Gali looks forward to seeing you and your children for worship this summer. The nursery will open again at 9am at the start of the new program year in September!

Teens and Tweens: The Sunday school year is winding down. Teens participate in worship May 5, so there is no Sunday school. May 12, we complete the lectionary program with the topic, Praying Through Uncertain Times. We wrap up the year on May 19 with teen fellowship and a light continental breakfast hang out in the youth room.

Children: The Sunday school year is winding down. Children participate in worship May 5, so there is no Sunday school. On May 12, we celebrate Mother's Day with gift crafting. We wrap up the program year on May 19 with an intergenerational breakfast hangout. Parents may join the children in the art room this day for a light continental breakfast, art, and a game.

God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an

of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in
 life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,
 Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and
 age of change and doubt keep us faith - ful

full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.
 font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.
 wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

Commissioned for the dedication of a renovated worship space in Austin, Texas, this text is one of the few to devote attention to how customary church features facilitate worship. The tune was composed in wartime Britain to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.

GATHERING

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we

var - ied skills and arts wait the com - ing
 si - lence, as in speech, here, in new - ness
 wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in
 have to give, re - ceive: we, who can - not

of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord 432

Capo 1: (D) (A) (Bm) (G) (D) (A)(D)
 Eb Bb Cm Ab Eb Bb Eb

1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
 2 But if, for-get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be-came in hin-dranc-es more sure:
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,

(G) (Em) (A) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (Em)
 Ab Fm Bb Gm Cm Ab Fm

to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re-freshed, re -
 if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -
 whose joy - ful vir-tues put to shame the ca-sual way we wear your
 in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to

(A7) (D) (A7)(B) (Em) (G)(A7) (D)
 Bb7 Eb Bb7 C Fm Ab Bb7 Eb

stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
 wind its tan-gled skein of care: our in-ward life re - pair.
 name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.
 you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored, done.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This reflection on Christian vocation was written to provide a new text for a pre-existing tune, and the poet has crafted his words so well that the two parts mesh smoothly. The tune is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.

LORD'S SUPPER

536 Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

D G Bm F#m Em7 A Bm

1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en, from this
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low af - ter
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture God has
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion; cour - age

A D Em A Bm Gmaj7

meal of love and grace; may we through such love en -
 Christ, though wound - ed, whole; bro - ken, shared, our lives are
 called us to re - ceive; pres - ent by God's lov - ing
 be our dai - ly breath; mer - cy be our des - ti -

Em7 A D Bm7 E Asus A D

vi - sion whose we are, and whose, our praise. Al - le -
 hal - lowed to re - lease and to con - sole. Al - le -
 nur - ture, Spir - it - ed then let us live. Al - le -
 na - tion from this day and un - to death. Al - le -

G Em A A7 Bm Em A7 D

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: God, the won - der of our days.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The second line of the first stanza shows that this hymn is meant for use in the context of the Lord's Supper, but the last stanza further clarifies its special purpose as a sending hymn celebrating the values guiding the work of the church in the world: service, courage, mercy.