

# The First Presbyterian Church

300 South Main Street

Greensburg, Pennsylvania

The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost – November 19, 2023 – 10 a.m.

Simulcast Service

## GATHERING MUSIC

Partita on: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*John Behnke*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INTROIT

Children, Sing the Joyful Chorus

## CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

sing the glory of his name;

give to him glorious praise.

**All the earth worships you;**

**they sing praises to you,**

**sing praises to your name.**

## ✠HYMN 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

## ✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

## ✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE PEACE

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

**And also with you.**

## ✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Gloria Patri (Hymn 581)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Owen Reid, son of Joshua and Nicole Newcomer

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

### 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.**

RESPONSE—"Baptized in Water" (hymnal p. 482 1<sup>st</sup> stanza)

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King; Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST READING** Psalm 90:1-8, 12

**ANTHEM** Look at the World *John Rutter*  
*Look at the world, ev'rything all around us: Look at the world; and marvel ev'ry day. Look at the world: so many joys and wonders, So many miracles along our way. Refrain: Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation, Give us thankful hearts, that we may see; All the gifts we share, and ev'ry blessing, All things come of thee. Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower; Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain; Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains, Valley and flowing river, field and plain; (Refrain) Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer. Bringing the harvest before the winter's cold. Ev'rything grows, ev'rything has a season, Til it is gathered to the Father's fold; (Refrain) Ev'ry good gift, all that we need and cherish, comes from the Lord in token of his love; We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty; His is the earth, and his the heav'ns above; (Refrain)*

**SECOND READING** Matthew 25:14-30

**SERMON** Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum

✠**HYMN 716** God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending **BEACH SPRING**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*unison*)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**OUR JOYFUL RESPONSE - TITHES & OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY** Cantabile *John Behnke*

✠**RESPONSE** Doxology (*hymnal p. 606*)  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✠**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

✠**HYMN 377** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light **HOUSTON**

✠**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Fantasia *John Behnke*  
✠ *Those who are able to stand comfortably may do so*

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING:**

The Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor / Head of Staff; Dr. Jeffrey Jones, Minister of Music; Mr. Scott Brown, Lector; The Chancel Choir; Children's Choir; Mr. Michael Pascarella, 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.*

**The chancel flowers are placed in honor of** the marriage of Jillian Manning and Ryan Fishleigh on October 28, 2023 by Karen and Jay Manning.

**The Baby Rose placed in the chancel is in honor** of the birth of Kennedy Breneman, daughter of Mitch & Paige Settino on November 7. The proud grandparents are David and Dee Dee Lucas.

## **FIRST NEWS: The News of FPC**

**PRAYER LIST:** Ben Addis, Charlie Andrews, Jeret Baker, Lisa Bulger, Art Caramella, Juan Carlos, George Chambers, Sandy Cole, Dan & Ginger Collier, Tracy Confer, Edna Mary Cox, Kaitlyn Daniels, Diane Demorest, Lou DeRose, Chris Dieck, Lorelai Difonso, Bob Dittman, Karen Dubosky, Michael Felice, Richard Gracik, Edgar and Joanne Highberger, Gretchen Highberger, Lucas James, Lee Jamison, Jennifer Kubit, Paige Lucas, Karen M., Marge Machesney, Kelsey Magness, George Maser, Joanne McIlhattan, Rick & Jan McNerny, Keenan Miller, Gretchen Nelson, John Noel, Dan P., Nancy Pallitta, Kathleen Piekut, Gerry Pricer, Jamie R., Colton Reid, Judy Rugh, Ron Russell, Gene Sember, Barbara Sill and family, Christina Sinddorf, Nancy Skrot, Eileen Stefl, Molly Stienbiser, Sharon Stoner, Isabelle Taylor, Lynda Turin, Linda & Tom Turin, Matthew J. Washil, Lois Ann Watson, Sue Woodward and Marsha Zoruba.

**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!

**AN OPEN INVITATION** to members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to join the Monday Morning Sewing Circle that meets at 9:00 a.m. Monday mornings in the Fletcher Room. You don't have to be an expert tailor to hem the cotton flannelette baby receiving blankets or to sew the "little dresses for Africa". If you are interested, please contact Sylvia Carlson at 724-755-2288 for information. Membership at this church is not a requirement. Anyone is welcome.

**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SPONSORING A COFFEE HOUR?** Provide 6 dozen baked goods **or** \$35 donation to cover the costs. Use the sign-up sheet on the Dining Room bulletin board. Your contributions and participation are greatly appreciated.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

**GAMES WITH RICK,** Today, November 19 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The kids play characters and interact with the Eberon game world, guided by Rick Crowe. They work together to solve problems and overcome obstacles in a fantasy world setting that blends magic and machine. They've defeated pirates, saved a town by rescuing a dragon and become movie stars. If cooperative storytelling sounds like fun to you, then this may be your scene! We meet in the youth room.

**OVERLY'S COUNTRY CHRISTMAS** – Today, November 19, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Join us for a fun evening to get in the Christmas spirit. Please RSVP to Jennifer at 724-217-3448 or [jennifer1996slater@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer1996slater@gmail.com).



**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!  
[www.firstpresbyteriangreensburg.com](http://www.firstpresbyteriangreensburg.com)

**THE DEACONS OF FPC ARE SPONSORING A BEAR-Y CHRISTMAS** to provide gifts for families in the Early Head Start program. If you are interested in participating, please visit the tree that will be set up in the Dining Room starting November 19. You will be given a card that lists the child's name, gender, age and gift suggestions. You will be asked to print your name and phone number on the master list so that we know who has each child. Please return the gifts **UNWRAPPED** and in a gift bag by Sunday, November 26 or December 3. If you have any questions, please call or email Deane Markle. Thank you for your support!

**FELLOWSHIP HOURS: IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP! – TODAY - November 19:** The Deacons cordially invite the congregation to gather for Fellowship Hour. Join us in the Dining Room immediately following worship for Coffee, Baked Goods AND Fellowship! Coffee provided by the Millers of 19 Coffee!

**THE FPC SANCTUARY TOURS** that are held each October have been a resounding success. Join us at the chancel steps after morning worship on **Sunday, December 3**. This year, architectural historian David McMunn will lead a tour of our chapel's stained-glass windows, explaining the significance and meaning behind their installation and overall style. Built between 1966-1968 from designs of the well-known local architect Paul Bartholomew, our church's Memorial Chapel stands as a testament to our continued faith heritage and to sound construction in our era. The windows were installed in 1968.



**MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 7:30 A.M.:** This Bible study has many wonderful ingredients: warm fellowship, good friendships, open discussions, great breakfasts AND the opportunity to grow in faith together. We gather every Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. at Eat n' Park across from Westmoreland Mall. We are currently studying the book of Revelation.

**ADULT FORUM ON SUNDAY MORNING** meets at 9:00 a.m. in the PW Lounge on the first floor of the CE Wing. This year we will be reading and discussing a wonderful book written by the late Rev. Peter Gomes: *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*. Gomes unpacks the scriptures for his reader, covering how the Bible is often misunderstood by Christians and others alike. Books are available from Dr. Ankrum.

**THRU THE BIBLE CLASS MEETS** on **Monday, November 27 at 7 p.m.** in the Assembly Room of the church building. We have been working our way through the Bible from cover to cover and will be discussing Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. The class lasts just an hour and is led by Dr. Ankrum. Please join us!

**THE LAST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB WILL** meet on **Tuesday, November 28 at 7 p.m.** in the PW Lounge on the first floor of the CE Wing. This year, all the stories will be taken from *The World's Greatest Short Stories*, Dover Thrift Edition. This month we will read and discuss the following: James Joyce – Araby; Katherine Mansfield – The Garden-Party; Yasunari Kawabata – The Grasshopper and the Bell Cricket.

## UPCOMING CONCERTS IN OUR SANCTUARY

**Sunday, December 3** – Westmoreland Choral Society Christmas Concert – 3 p.m.  
Ticketed Event in the FPC Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 10** – Christmas at the Keyboards – 6 p.m.  
Dr. Jeff Jones & Mr. Edgar Highberger in the FPC Sanctuary – Free Admission

**Saturday, December 16** – Scottsdale Concert Band – 2 p.m.  
Free Admission in the FPC Sanctuary



**Sundays in Advent:**

<b>December 3 – 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>	<b>‘Coming Down’</b>
<b>December 10 - 10:00 a.m.</b>		<b>‘Patience as Salvific’</b>
<b>December 17 – 10:00 a.m.</b>		<b>‘The Word of Promise’</b>
<b>December 24 – 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>	<b>‘An Odd Beginning’</b>

**Wednesdays in Advent – 7:00 p.m. – The Sanctuary**

Three Wednesday evenings in Advent will feature our mid-week service in celebration of the season. Advent is a time of both expectant anticipation and faithful meditation upon the great news of God’s coming to us in Jesus Christ. The services on Wednesday evenings will be comprised of scripture, prayer, a brief homily and music that accentuates the season and God’s call to us during this time. Join us in the sanctuary in-person or via our simulcast means on Wednesdays December 6, 13 and 20 at 7 p.m.

## **Christmas Poinsettias For the Sanctuary!**

**Prepaid Orders Due: Sunday, December 10, 2023**

If you wish to place one or more plants in the Sanctuary for Christmas week services, including the Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons & Carols, please return this form to the church office with \$10.00 for each plant desired. You may, if you wish, place your poinsettias "In Memory Of" and/or "In Honor Of" loved ones. Deadline for orders is **Sunday, December 10, 2023**.

**Poinsettias may be picked up following the last service on Christmas Eve.  
Otherwise, the poinsettias will be distributed to those partaking in the  
Christmas Day Dinner.**

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**POINSETTIA ORDER FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias.

"In Memory of" \_\_\_\_\_

"In Honor of" \_\_\_\_\_

ADORATION

# 611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-lect thy rays;  
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.

Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a - bove.  
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro - ken praise.  
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife.

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

# God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (G)  
 F Dm B<sup>b</sup>

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of  
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D) (Bm)  
 F Dm

end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly  
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es  
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) (D) (A)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F C

cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn  
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly  
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)  
 Dm Am Dm B<sup>b</sup> C F

to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall  
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,  
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm) (G) (D)  
 Dm B<sup>b</sup> F

rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

# 377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at  
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and  
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

*Refrain*

star of my life is Je - sus.  
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at  
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.