

FIRST READING Isaiah 43:1-7

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children are invited to the chancel steps for the children's sermon and then be dismissed to Sunday School.

CONGREGATIONAL ANTHEM Shall We Gather at the River *Traditional*
(Please remain seated and join the choir singing the hymn, included in the bulletin, as indicated)

SECOND READING Luke 3:15-22

SERMON Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum

THE RESPONSE

✠HYMN 726 Will You Come and Follow Me KELVINGROVE

THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

✠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.

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 Wade in the Water *Chuck Marohnic*

✠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 361 O Christ, the Great Foundation AURELIA

✠BENEDICTION

✠POSTLUDE Trumpet Air *Bert Vander Hoek*
✠ *Those who are able to stand comfortably may do so*

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING:

Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor/Head of Staff; Dr. Jeffrey Jones, Minister of Music / Organist; Mr. Lucas Fazi, Lector; Chancel 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.

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FIRST NEWS: The News of FPC

PRAYER LIST: Bob Bark, Tonna Bogac, Trudy Brunot, Lisa Bulger, Gloria Christofano, Roy Clemens, Wayne Clemens, Sandy Cole, Bob Colflesh, Dan & Ginger Collier, Beverly & William Courtney, Edna Mary Cox, Mark Cuneo, Bob Dittman, Karen Dubosky, Michael Felice, Duffy Greba, Edgar and Joanne Highberger, Gretchen Highberger, Lucas James, Lee Jamison, Brett Johnson, Weston Johnson, Heather Jones, Don Kemerer, Jim L., George Maser, Joanne McIlhattan, Jim & Gail Miller; Melanie Murphy, Gary Nicewonger, Bob Noel, John Noel, Dan P., Nancy Pallitta, Victoria Piekut, Gerry Pricer, Judy Rugh, Marnie Abraham Russell, Jenny Schuchman, Sharyn Sekora, Nancy Skrot, Mary Smith, Jerry Sohick, Nancy Stahl, Dorothy Steele, Eileen Stefl, Crystal Stone, Brooke Stutzman, Sonny & Jo Thomas, Lynda Turin, Linda & Tom Turin, Matt Washil, Ron Watkoski, Doug Wessling, Lisa Wessling, Don Whipkey.

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 HOURS! 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Drop off care is available in the FPC nursery each Sunday morning for children Birth through Pre/K. Gali Clark is excited to welcome FPC’s youngest members and friends for a time of play, music, fun, or a nap! For safety reasons, caregivers are asked to provide their own drinks and snacks for their child. Registration forms can be found in the nursery. See you there!

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. *Children’s bulletins are available at the 3rd Street entrance.*

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. Hours are held 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Due to the new year, we are reporting the final outcome of our gift for the King year end deficit retirement emphasis. Due to the great generosity of this congregation, we ended the year with a surplus. Below are the figures for 2024. Let’s work together to make 2025 another surplus year.

2024 Expenses	\$740,879
2024 Income	\$753,026
2024 Surplus	\$ 12,147

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. *Starting August 31, 2024, the church will accrue a monthly fee for those who give by credit or debit card. The church currently also incurs a 2.84% fee plus 45 cents on every credit or debit card donation. These fees are not incurred for the church for donations routed through Vanco from a checking account.* Your support of Christ's church in this place is greatly appreciated!

LEADERSHIP RETREAT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024; 9 A.M. – NOON: The annual joint meeting of our Session and the Board of Deacons will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025, 9 a.m. - Noon. If you are a member of either board, please mark your calendars and plan to be present for this all-important gathering to plan for the coming year.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION, SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025 – 11 A.M.: The Session has called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be convened immediately following the conclusion of the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 26, 2025. The Annual Report will be shared with the congregation and the membership will be presented the pastoral Terms of Call for approval.

SECOND SUNDAY SUPPER is asking for two Youth Group members to help at each Second Sunday Supper beginning in February. Please contact Jennifer or use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the youth group hallway. (There is no Second Sunday Supper in January)

GAMES WITH RICK, Sunday, January 12, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The city of Drakkenheim was devastated by a meteor. A mysterious, magical, mutation-causing haze blankets the buildings and alleyways. Five factions vie for control of the ruins. Our heroes must navigate monsters and intrigue to restore the city and save the kingdom. We meet in the youth room.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING – Please join us in the youth room for our monthly meeting on **January 19, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Lunch will be provided.

THE LAST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB: We'll gather on Tuesday, January 28 at 7 p.m. in the PW Lounge on the first floor of the CE Wing. We will be reading short stories from 100 Great Short Stories: Dover Thrift Edition, which can be obtained through Amazon. We will discuss the following three stories: James Joyce – Araby; D.H. Lawrence – Second Best and Jack London – The White Silence.

THRU THE BIBLE CLASS: We'll gather on Monday, January 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 the Second Epistle of Peter and the Letter of Jude. The class lasts just an hour and is led by Dr. Ankrum. Please join us for a lively discussion!

THE GATHERING – TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025: 11:30 A.M. – 1 P.M. - DAVID McMUNN, SPEAKER; THE BOULEVARD RESTAURANT 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. **We'll hear from David McMunn, our church historian, who will share his research about Paul A. Bartholomew, a Greensburg architect and FPC member, who shaped the streetscape of Main Street and left a legacy of significant architecture in many neighborhoods from 1920 through the 1960s. Place your luncheon reservation through the church office by January 13.**

THE MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE will present the first ever church sing-a-long featuring our very own Jeff Jones and delicious “munchies” to whet your appetite! Join us on **Sunday, February 23 at 11:00 a.m.** in the dining room after the service in the dining room. Look for the sign-up sheet during Fellowship Hours.

Shall We Gather at the River

Please follow the dynamics of the organ



unison 1 Shall we gath-er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
harmony 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
unison 3 'Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
harmony 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.



Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899
 Music: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

HANSON PLACE
 8 7 8 7 and refrain

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Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty 403

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so
 3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be

en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
 un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,
 done in - deed; may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee,

waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed
 there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O
 while thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the

is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.
 en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.
 foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

In the first stanza "Zion" is not a general synonym for Jerusalem but a reference to the part of the city where the Temple stood. It prepares the way for the interior temple of the heart in stanza two. The pre-existing tune is by a prominent German Reformed hymnwriter.

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

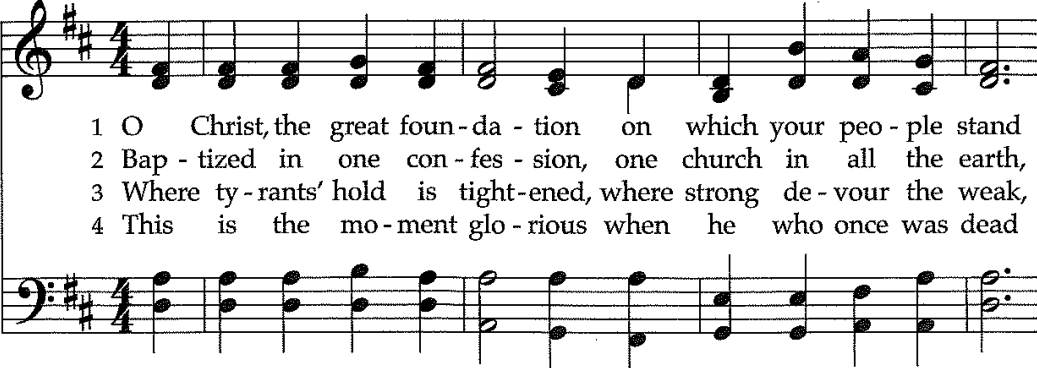
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

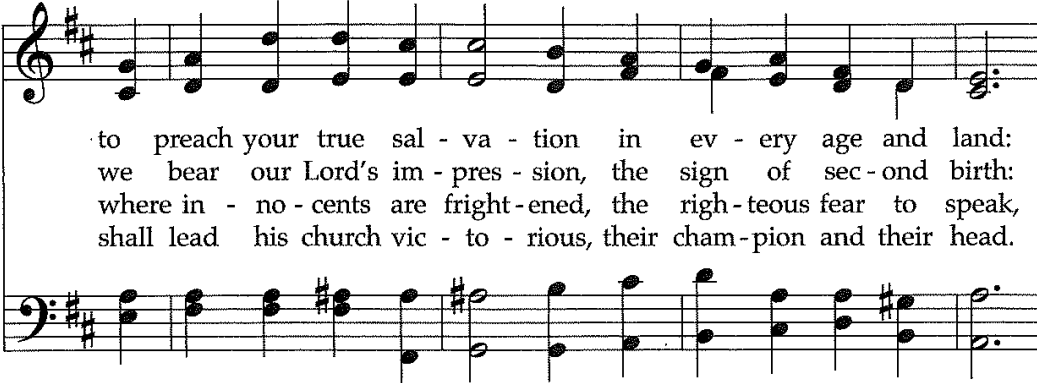
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.

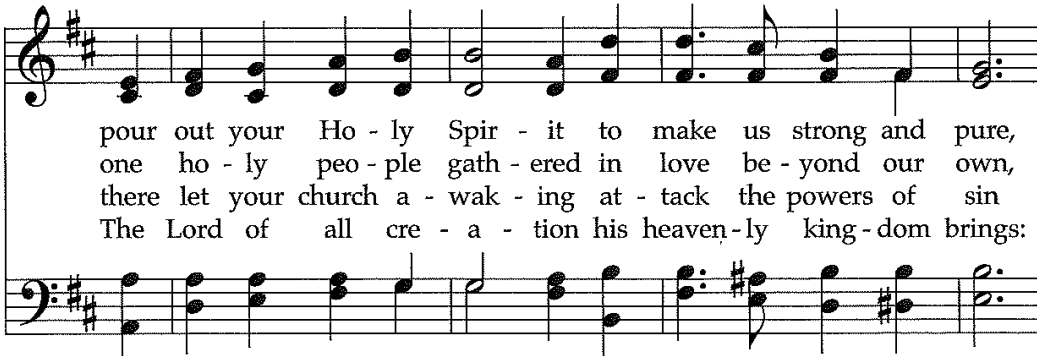
O Christ, the Great Foundation 361



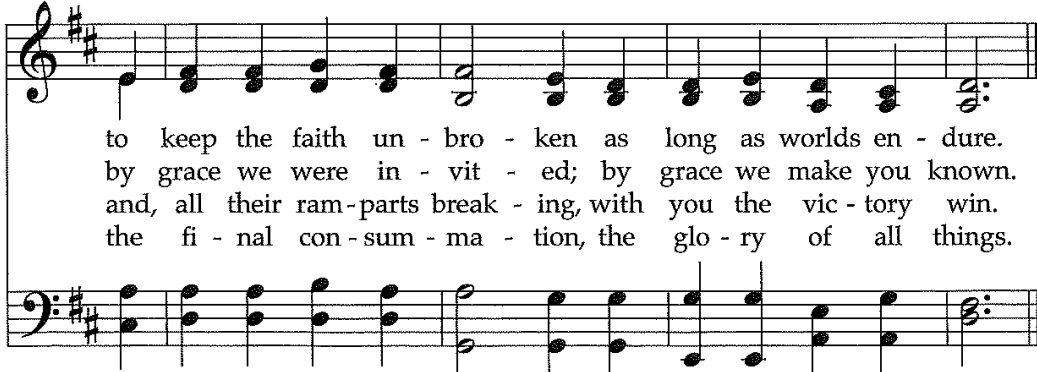
1 O Christ, the great foun - da - tion on which your peo - ple stand
 2 Bap - tized in one con - fes - sion, one church in all the earth,
 3 Where ty - rants' hold is tight - ened, where strong de - vour the weak,
 4 This is the mo - ment glo - rious when he who once was dead



to preach your true sal - va - tion in ev - ery age and land:
 we bear our Lord's im - pres - sion, the sign of sec - ond birth:
 where in - no - cents are fright - ened, the righ - teous fear to speak,
 shall lead his church vic - to - rious, their cham - pion and their head.



pour out your Ho - ly Spir - it to make us strong and pure,
 one ho - ly peo - ple gath - ered in love be - yond our own,
 there let your church a - wak - ing at - tack the powers of sin
 The Lord of all cre - a - tion his heaven - ly king - dom brings:



to keep the faith un - bro - ken as long as worlds en - dure.
 by grace we were in - vit - ed; by grace we make you known.
 and, all their ram - parts break - ing, with you the vic - tory win.
 the fi - nal con - sum - ma - tion, the glo - ry of all things.

The text was written by a leading Chinese educator, author, and editor who chaired the commission that prepared an important ecumenical Chinese hymnal, *Hymns of Universal Praise* (1936). This familiar tune invites comparison of these words with its usual text (see no. 321).