

The First Presbyterian Church
300 South Main Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
The Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 17, 2024 – 10 a.m.
Simulcast Service

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

When Jesus Wept Kaddish

arr. Lee Matchett

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Forgetting what lies behind
and straining forward to what lies ahead,
we press on toward the goal
for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

✠HYMN 401

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE PEACE

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

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy) (Hymn 577)

(The chancel choir will sing once and the congregation will join on the repeat)

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

John 12:20-33

ANTHEM

God of Present, Past, and Future

John Ferguson

God of present, past, and future all our lives are in your care. Show us in this present moment what is ours to do and dare. In our ministry and mission, keep our focus clear and true. Show us how to love each other, loving all by loving you. We remember and are grateful for the church established here. And we trust your ageless promise to be with us, always near. Lead and guide us in the future, into paths of faith and peace. May our work and worship praise you, and our ministries increase. When life's sorrows overwhelm us, when our eyes are dimmed by tears. Be our comfort and assurance now as always in past years. When our life brings joy unbounding, teach us how to share that gift. Grant us grace to be more helpful, giving other souls a lift. As we face an unknown future, still our days are in your hands. Grant us visions of your purpose, peace and justice for all lands. Stretch our minds to new dimensions, stretch our wills and hearts and souls. May we grow as faithful people, reaching always toward your goals. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum

✠HYMN 833

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

ST. MARGARET

✠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.

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

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP – Mr. Stephen Ross

OFFERTORY

A Song of Hope

James Swearingen

✠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 724

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ANGEL'S STORY

✠BENEDICTION

✠POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in G

Bach/Krebbs

Please feel free to exit the sanctuary during the playing of the postlude, letting the melody carry you out into the world to love and serve the Lord.

✠ 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; Mr. Scott Brown, Lector; Chancel Choir; FPC Wind Ensemble; 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.

FIRST NEWS: The News of FPC

PRAYER LIST: Jeret Baker, Lisa Bulger, Art Caramella, Juan Carlos, George Chambers, Sandy Cole, Dan & Ginger Collier, Tracy Confer, Beverly Courtney, William Courtney, Edna Mary Cox, Kaitlyn Daniels, Diane Demorest, Lorelai Difonso, Bob Dittman, Karen Dubosky, Michael Felice, Richard Gracik, Heather H., Edgar and Joanne Highberger, Gretchen Highberger, Lucas James, Lee Jamison, Don Kemerer, Jennifer Kubit, Paige Lucas, Karen M., Marge Machesney, Kelsey Magness, George Maser, Joanne McIlhattan, Rick & Jan McNerny, Janet Metzela, Carmina Michelsen, Keenan Miller, Gretchen Nelson, John Noel, Dan P., Nancy Pallitta, Kathleen Piekut, Gerry Pricer, Jamie R., Colton Reid, Judy Rugh, Julia Saul, Barbara Sill and family, Christina Sinddorf, Nancy Skrot, Mary Smith, Bob & Nancy Stahl, Eileen Stefl, Molly Stienbiser, Crystal Stone, Scott Sucke, Isabelle Taylor, Lynda Turin, Linda & Tom Turin, Matthew J. Washil, Don Whipkey 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!

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. ***Join us today for Fellowship Hour after the service in the Dining Room. Today's fellowship hour is sponsored by Bill & Phyllis Boyer.***

NEW MEMBERS CLASS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 14 – Are you interested in joining our congregation? Please prayerfully consider your participation in the life of Christ's church and God's call upon your life. The Membership & Evangelism Committee will be offering a New Members Class on Sunday, April 14 at 11:15 a.m. in the PW Lounge. Those who wish to join the church will be received into membership during the worship service on Sunday, April 21. If you are interested, or if you have questions, please contact Dr. Ankrum at the church office.

THE DEACONS ARE COLLECTING FOR THE BLACKBURN CENTER – They are collecting new women's pajamas and sweatsuits, in sizes Small, Medium, Large, XL, and XXL, for the local center that provides housing and other services to promote the well-being and safety of individuals impacted by violence. These pajamas and sweat suits would be provided to women presenting to local hospitals and police stations due to experiencing violence. Often, the clothes the women were wearing at the time of an assault are collected as evidence and a clean set of clothes may provide comfort. You may place your donations in the box located in the Narthex. Thank you so much for helping women in our community who have been affected by violence.

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.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER – WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

Everyone enjoyed the potluck luncheon sponsored by the Stewardship Committee. It was a great gathering of good food and good fellowship, but also a good time to consider the challenge of healthy stewardship. The participants were asked to consider what Jesus's words meant to them: 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' Here are a few responses:

It is easy to support what you love!

Where you place all your focus, thoughts, etc. That is where your heart will follow. So you need to keep your focus on what is good, kind ... Christ.

Love

What do Jesus's words mean to you?

HELP US CELEBRATE A 100TH BIRTHDAY!

Marge Machesney, a member of our congregation and resident of Redstone Highlands, will be turning 100 years of age on Thursday, March 28! Please help us celebrate this landmark by sending cards or letters of congratulations to Marge at: **Marge Machesney, 4 Garden Center Dr. Apt. 204, Greensburg, PA 15601**

THE CORNERSTONE GROUP INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM ... We will be dining at Dick's Diner, 4200 William Penn Highway (Route 22), Murrysville, on April 13, at 5:30 p.m. They are under new management and have added new things to the menu! Please sign-up before April 9 by calling Sandy Beauregard (724-834-2247 or 724-331-3457) or emailing her (sandbeau1@verizon.net) to reserve your spot.

THE LAST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB will meet Tuesday, March 26 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. In March we will read and discuss the following: Charlotte Perkins Gilman – The Yellow Wallpaper; D.H. Lawrence – The Prussian Officer and Thomas Mann – The Path to the Cemetery.

THRU THE BIBLE CLASS will meet Monday, March 25 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 First & Second Thessalonians. The class lasts just an hour and is led by Dr. Ankrum. Please join us for a lively discussion!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

GAMES WITH RICK, TODAY from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the youth room. 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.

HELP US BAKE!!! – Join us in baking for the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Lucas James on Wednesday, March 27 at 5:00 p.m. in the kitchen and dining room. Dinner will be provided.

LUCAS JAMES SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER: SATURDAY, MARCH 30 Greensburg Masonic Center : 349 Donohoe Road; 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (or until sold out) \$10.00 Donation for Adults; \$5.00 Donation for kids (12 and under); 3 and under are free. Dinner Includes: Pasta (marinara sauce, meatballs on the side) Salad, Bread, Dessert and Drinks (iced tea, lemonade, water) – (for dine-in only) ** Dine-in and take-out available ** 50/50 Raffle & Basket Raffle.



Palm Sunday – March 24

10 a.m. Worship Service

Maundy Thursday – March 28

7 p.m. – Communion Service - “A Service of Shadow & Light”

Good Friday – March 29

10:00 a.m. - Children’s Praying Through Holy Week

11:30 a.m. - The Way of the Cross Procession

12:00 Noon – Good Friday Service

First United Methodist Church, Greensburg

Easter Sunday – March 31

10:00 a.m. – Festival Worship Service

Holy Communion Celebrated

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN - “Praying Through Holy Week” Save the Date! Join your friends at church on Good Friday, March 29, for the children’s program, Praying Through Holy Week. Participate in art, science, and food activities and learn new ways to pray throughout the Easter season. Call the church to sign-up or see Wendy McCann.

Easter Lilies 2024

The Worship Committee is making lilies available for \$15.00 each. If you wish to place one or more flowers in the sanctuary for Easter, please return this form to the church office with \$15.00 for each plant desired. You may, if you wish, place your lilies "In Memory Of" and/or "In Honor Of" loved ones. **The deadline for orders is Sunday, March 17.** Lilies may be picked up following the Easter Sunday Service.

My Name: _____

Place my flower(s) "In Memory Of":

Place my flower(s) "In Honor Of":

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ (quantity) flowers

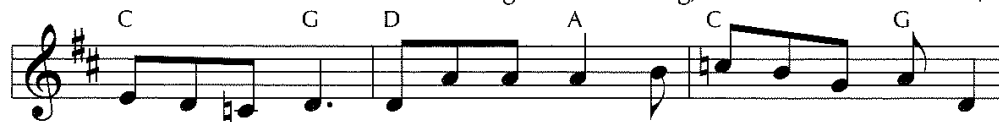
Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish'd a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
 2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not

wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 flick-ering torch to thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

TEXT: George Matheson, 1881, alt.
 MUSIC: Albert Lister Peace, 1884, alt.

ST. MARGARET
 8.8.8.8.6

724 O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;
 2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near:
 3 O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4 O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, draw thou near - er and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Written to highlight the promises made by the author's daughter and two sons at their confirmation, this text equally well recalls the promises of discipleship made in Baptism and in the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant. The tune was written for a text now unused.