

**The First Presbyterian Church**  
300 South Main Street  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania  
The Fifth Sunday of Easter – April 28, 2024 – 10 a.m.  
Simulcast Service

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

Earth and All Stars

*Michael Burkhardt*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*responsive*)

Call on the name of the Lord in praise;

Make known God's deeds among the nations!

**Sing to God with joyful songs;  
tell of God's wonderful deeds!**

**✠HYMN 14**

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

**✠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** 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**

John 15:1-8

**ANTHEM**

Beside the Still Waters

*Rollo A. Dilworth*

*Beside still waters my Lord leadeth me. He restoreth my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness, of righteousness. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. For He maketh me lie in pastures green beside the still waters. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. For Thou art with me. Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me! Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. Yes. I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever and ever. Yes, still waters, beside still waters. Yes. Beside still waters, beside still waters.*

**SECOND READING**

Acts 8:26-40

**SERMON**

The Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum

✠**HYMN 36**

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

✠**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**

**OFFERTORY**

Aria

*Ian Tracey*

✠**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**

✠**HYMN 526**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

✠**BENEDICTION**

✠**POSTLUDE**

Fuga

*Dietrich Buxtehude*

✠ *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. Michael Pascarella, Lector; Women of the Chancel Choir; Members of the Youth Choir; Mr. Caleb Crowe, Percussion; Mrs. Chris Terrill, Video Technician.

*Music for this evening'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, 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, Nancy Skrot, Mary Smith, Nancy Stahl, Eileen Stefl, Crystal Stone, Sonny & Jo Thomas, Lynda Turin, Linda & Tom Turin, Doug 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 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.

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN UP** sponsored by First Presbyterian Church will be on **Saturday, May 4**. The rain date is Saturday, May 11. We meet in the parking lot at Lynch Field across from the Dairy Queen on 119N at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers should be at least 14 years of age (volunteers under age 16 are asked to be accompanied by their parent/guardian). **The more help we get the quicker we will be done.** Please contact Joe Napsha at 724-454-3517 or [jnapsha@tribweb.com](mailto:jnapsha@tribweb.com) to volunteer.



**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., Sunday, May 5 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 Stroope 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sandbeau1@verizon.net)).

**THE LAST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB** will meet **Tuesday, April 30 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 April we will read and discuss the following: Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis – The Fortune-Teller; Luigi Pirandello – Mrs. Frola and Mr. Ponza, Her Son-in-Law; F. Scott Fitzgerald – Bernice Bobs Her Hair (can be accessed at [bernicebobs \(wsu.edu\)](http://www.wsu.edu/bernicebobs)) or obtain a copy from Martin.

**THRU THE BIBLE CLASS** will meet **Monday, April 29 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 Timothy. The class lasts just an hour and is led by Dr. Ankrum. Please join us for a lively discussion!

#### **YOUTH GROUP NEWS @ FPC**

**YOUTH GROUP MEETING – TODAY, 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.

**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](mailto: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.

#### **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:


**I have too many in heaven where my heart is.**

**Grandkids**


**My family and my church family make my life rich.**

What do Jesus' words mean to you? .....


## For the Beauty of the Earth 14



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

*Refrain*


Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

# For the Fruit of All Creation 36

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

## 526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: bread is bro - ken; the wine is poured;  
 sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,  
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:



Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain;  
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

*Maracas and other rhythm instruments may be used.* ||: ♩ . ♩ . ♩ :||

This "communion calypso" (as the author called it) affirms the continuing presence of Christ both in the sacramental meal and in the lives of Christians. Because this text was written to fit a pre-existing tune, it has a rather telegraphic style that encourages pondering.