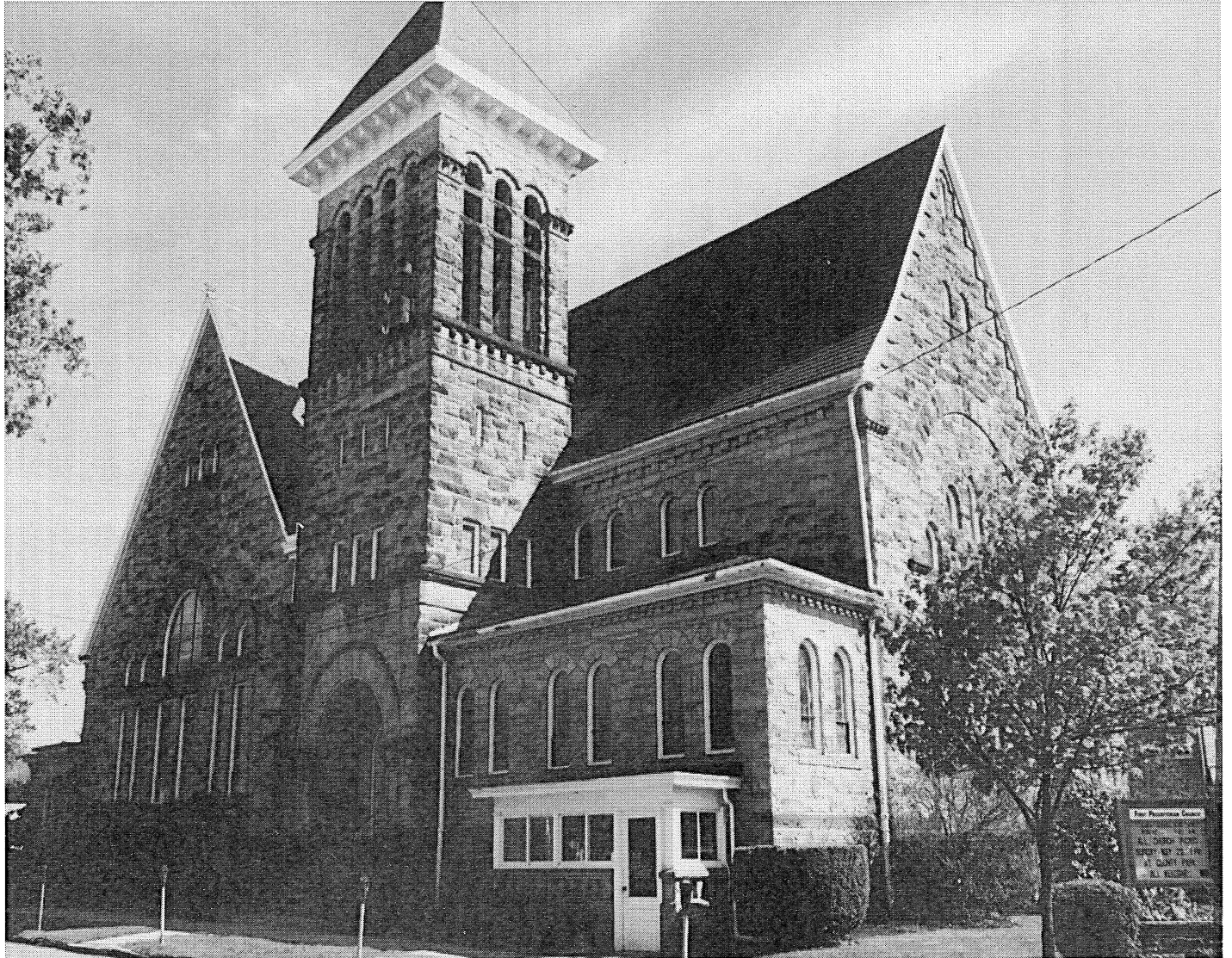


First Presbyterian Church



*Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
Communion Sunday
February 4, 2024*



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org

www.clarionfirstpresby.org

We come together to worship, grow, and serve as disciples of Christ.

We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Communion Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Bert Louder

We silently shift our focus to God and prepare to worship.

Prelude

Living Bread

Henry Baker, arr. Richard A. Williamson

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Here, O Our Lord We See You

Bonar / Atkinson

Call to Worship

Hope is upon us this day!

God is with us, always offering God's healing love.

Now is the time for us to be people of action, not just those who silently sit and hear the good news.

Now is the time to seek the good; to heal those who are broken; to offer peace and hope.

Thanks be to God who has blessed us with God's abundant gifts.

We are called to use these gifts in service to God's broken world. Let us rejoice in the mission to which God has directed us. AMEN.

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

✦ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

✦ Hymn No. 772

When We All Get to Heaven

Text: Hewitt Music: Wilson

✦ Call to Confession

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and against our neighbor.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

How amazing it is to us, O God of love, that you look into our hearts and forgive our wayward spirits. So many times we have succumbed to the temptations of this world, seeking comfort in its fleeting enticements. We have turned deaf ears on the cries of those in distress and walked away from opportunities to give aid and comfort. Remind us again of how Jesus reached out to the multitudes who brought their problems and ailments to him. His compassionate touch not only healed their bodies but restored and renewed their spirits. Forgive our stubbornness and our selfishness. Give us hearts of compassion and spirits willing to serve you by serving others. We offer this prayer of contrition in Jesus' name. AMEN.

✦ Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! In this very instant, God has touched our hearts and offered God's healing and forgiving love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! AMEN.

GLORIA PATRI
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

✦ Gloria Patri

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Brenda Haws

Prayer of Illumination

Bert Louder

First Scripture

Isaiah 40:21-31

(p. 668)

Second Scripture

Mark 1:29-39

(p. 35)

774 When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

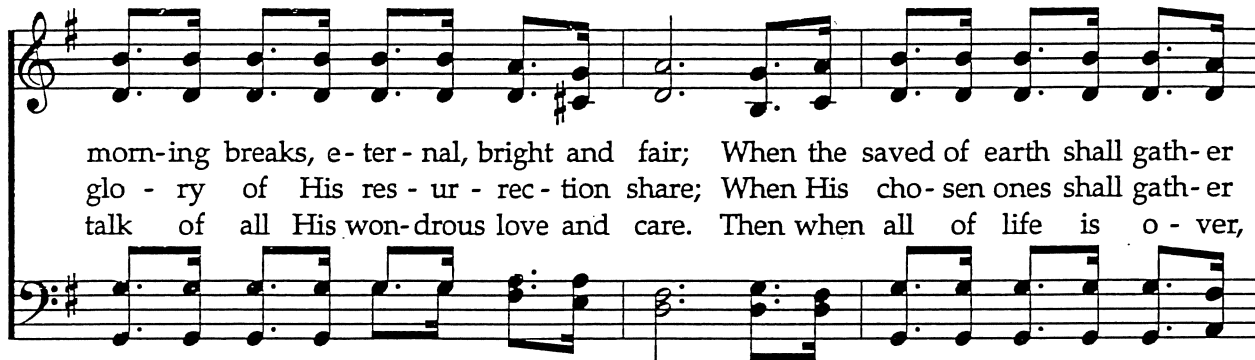
The Lord Himself will come down with the trumpet call of God. 1 Thessalonians 4:16



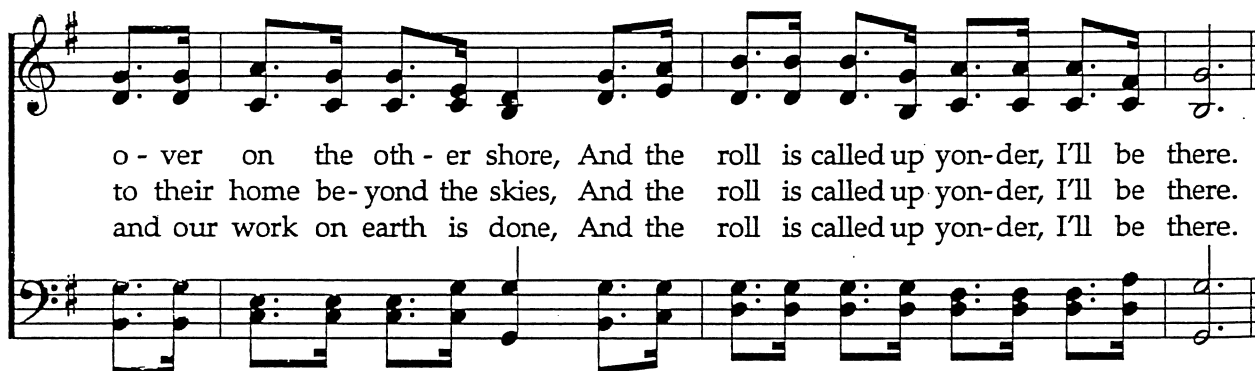
1. When the trum - pet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more, And the
2. On that bright and cloud-less morn - ing when the dead in Christ shall rise, And the
3. Let us la - bor for the Mas - ter from the dawn till set - ting sun; Let us



morn - ing breaks, e - ter - nal, bright and fair; When the saved of earth shall gath - er
glo - ry of His res - ur - rec - tion share; When His cho - sen ones shall gath - er
talk of all His won - drous love and care. Then when all of life is o - ver,



o - ver on the oth - er shore, And the roll is called up yon - der, I'll be there.
to their home be - yond the skies, And the roll is called up yon - der, I'll be there.
and our work on earth is done, And the roll is called up yon - der, I'll be there.

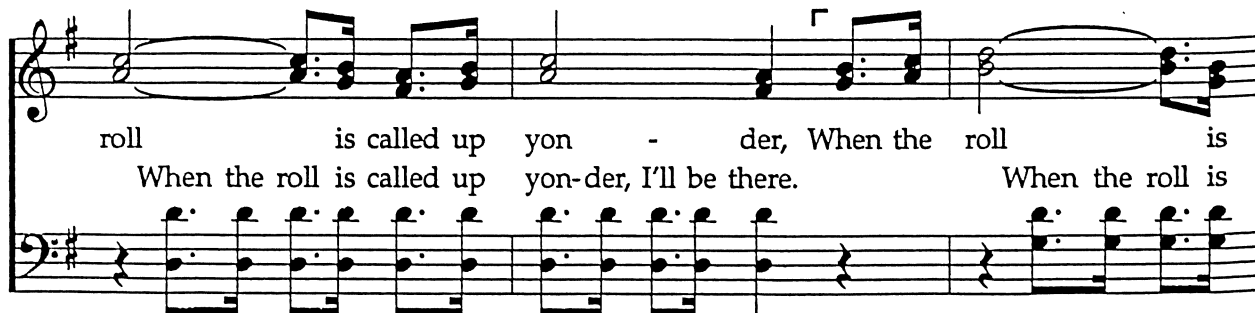


Refrain

When the roll is called up yon - der, When the
When the roll is called up yon - der, I'll be there.



roll is called up yon - der, When the roll is
When the roll is called up yon - der, I'll be there. When the roll is



TEXT: James M. Black
MUSIC: James M. Black; Choral ending by Eugene Thomas

ROLL CALL
Irregular meter

ETERNAL LIFE AND HEAVEN

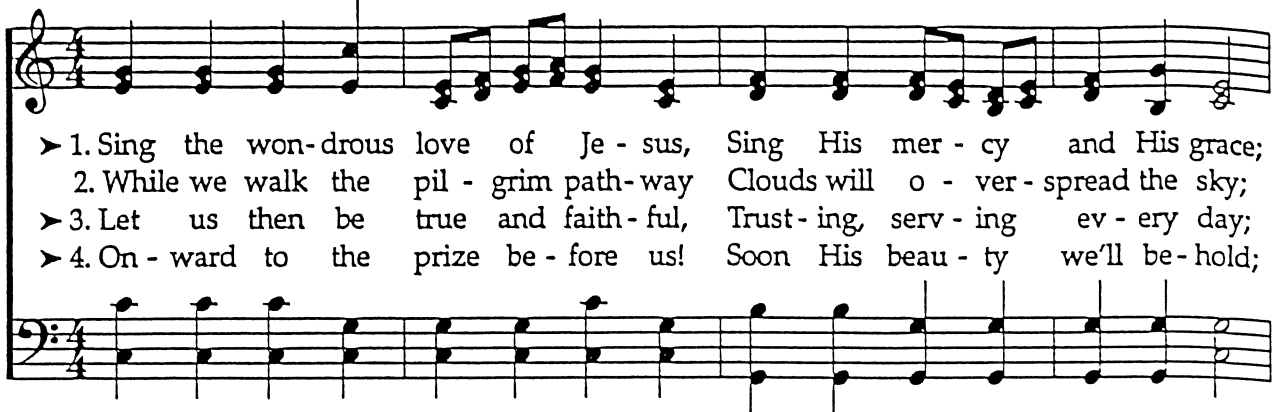
called up yon - der, When the roll is called up yon - der, I'll be there.

Optional choral ending

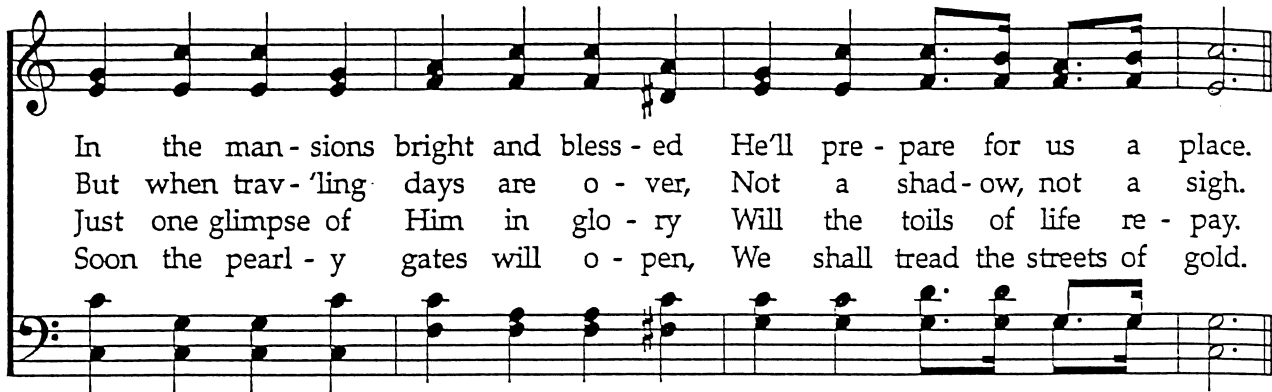
When the roll is called up yon - der, *ff* I'll be there!

772 When We All Get to Heaven

We will be caught up to be with the Lord forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

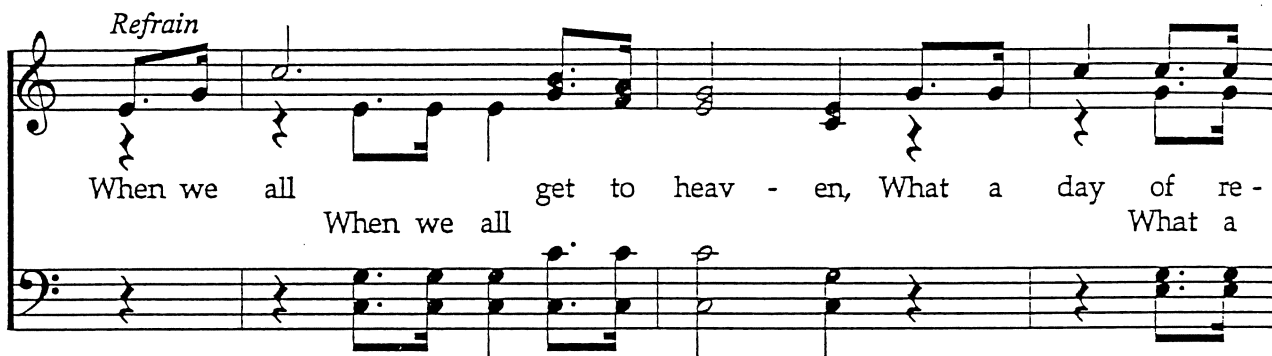


1. Sing the won-drous love of Je - sus, Sing His mer - cy and His grace;
2. While we walk the pil - grim path-way Clouds will o - ver - spread the sky;
3. Let us then be true and faith - ful, Trust - ing, serv - ing ev - ery day;
4. On - ward to the prize be - fore us! Soon His beau - ty we'll be - hold;

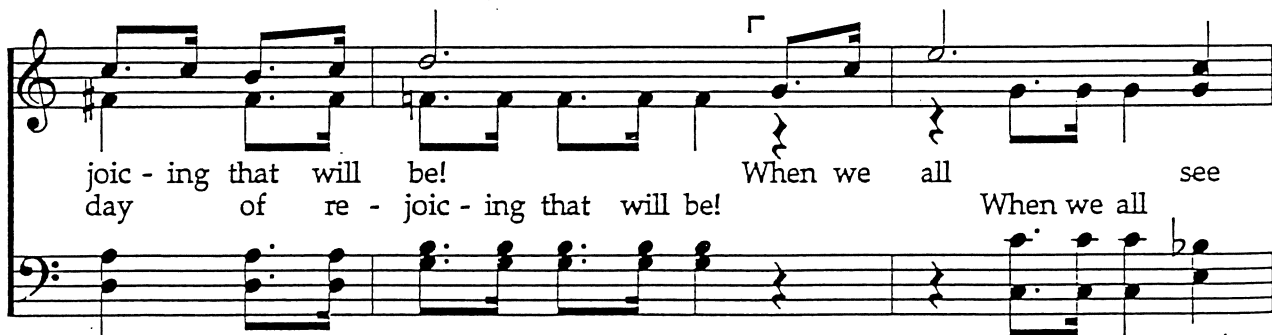


In the man - sions bright and bless - ed He'll pre - pare for us a place.
But when trav - 'ling days are o - ver, Not a shad - ow, not a sigh.
Just one glimpse of Him in glo - ry Will the toils of life re - pay.
Soon the pearl - y gates will o - pen, We shall tread the streets of gold.

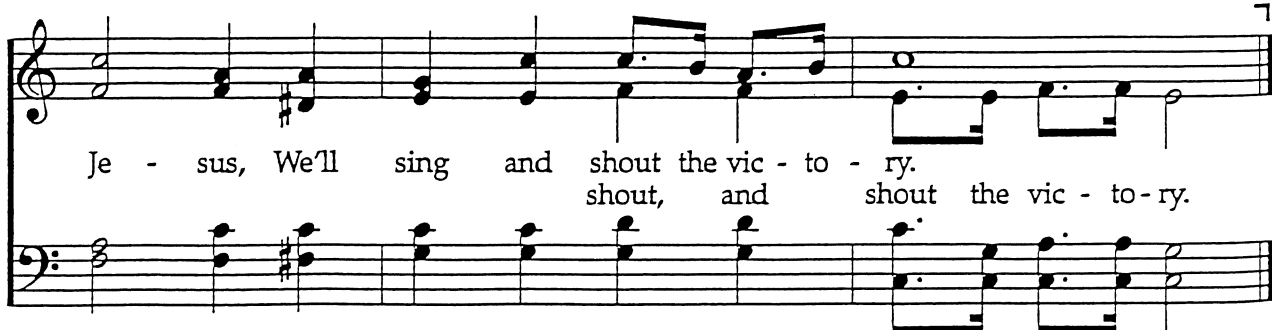
Refrain



When we all get to heav - en, What a day of re -
When we all What a



joic - ing that will be! When we all see
day of re - joic - ing that will be! When we all



Je - sus, We'll sing and shout the vic - to - ry.
shout, and shout the vic - to - ry.

God of Our Life

686

1 God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, we trust in thee.
 2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us a-bide.
 3 God of the com- ing years, through paths un-known we fol-low thee.

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.
 Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land. Be thou our guide.
 When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a-lone. Our ref-uge be.

With each new day, when morn- ing lifts the veil,
 With thee to bless, the dark- ness shines as light,
 Be thou for us in life our dai- ly bread,

we own thy mer- cies, Lord, which nev- er fail.
 and faith's fair vi- sion chang- es in- to sight.
 our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

This text was created for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by its pastor. He wrote these words especially for this tune, originally composed for John Henry Newman's text "Lead, Kindly Light."

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Hell — Truth or Dare?" Brenda Haws

Organ Interlude

♣ **Hymn No. 774** *When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder* Text & Music: Black

We Give Thanks to God

♣ **Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles' Creed*

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 had of God the Father Almighty; form thens 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.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory *Come, Share the Lord* Leech / Arr. Larson

♣ **Doxology**

♣ **Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

We thank you God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ, and have received Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

♣ **Hymn No. 686** *God of Our Life* Text: Kerr, 1916, alt.

Music: Purday, 1860; harm. Weaver, 1986

♣ **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude *The Heavens Declare His Glory* Beethoven

DOXOLOGY

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

POSTLUDE

Please remember at the close of the service, the Postlude is a time to silently reflect on God and the mission to which we are called. We ask that you please remain silent and seated until the music has ended.

WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are glad to provide hybrid and virtual worship services for this Sunday. Services are currently livestreamed on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion) in real time, then archived to our website and Facebook page.

At First Presbyterian Church our mission is to worship, grow, and serve as followers of Jesus. From our youngest to our oldest, we seek to worship God in our actions, grow in God's love, and serve God's people in our community and around the world. We hope that you will come join us so we may personally extend a warm welcome. If you have any questions or particular prayer needs, please feel free to contact the church office at 226-8145 between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

For more information visit our website at www.clarionfirstpresby.org.

Find us on Facebook! (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion)

Radio Broadcast-WWCH 94.1 FM every third Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Video recordings of past sermons may be viewed by clicking the "Worship" link on our home page at www.clarionfirstpresby.org or a phone app is available at sermon.net (look for First Presbyterian Church—Clarion.) You can also choose to listen to an audio version. Simply pick the option that works best for you. Videos of Sunday worship are also posted on our Facebook page (see above).

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WORSHIP NOTES

Guest Preacher: Brenda Haws
Lector: Bert Louder
Time with Children: Brenda Haws
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer: Dan Willy/Kurt Nesbitt
Acolytes: Gavin Kunselman, Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy
Ushers in Charge: Robin Cable

We warmly welcome Brenda Haws to our pulpit this morning. Brenda is a lay minister and completed her training through the United Church of Christ. She and her husband Greg live in Rimersburg and are Clarion County natives. Their daughter, Karri, and her husband Steven live in Maryland with their children Lincoln, Harrison, and Emerie. Brenda and Greg work in the family insurance business. Brenda enjoys antiques and time with her parents. Greg enjoys tormenting Brenda about his affection for motorcycles!

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice
 10:00 a.m. Worship
 11:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class, Ministry Central
 11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Treasurer: Brenda Nesbitt
Secretary: Debra Owens
Sexton: Mike Hetrick
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz
Video Engineer: Dan Willy

Ruling Elders:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Kathy Larimer	Jeff Deitz	Norma Kooman
Elaine Matticks	Jeff Kapp	Dave Larimer
Pam Reid	Kurt Nesbitt	Cindy Stants

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Bonnie Champion	Kim Lewis	Robin Cable
Marianne Reynolds	Lee Seitz	Tamalyn Goble
Mary Swanger	Lori Smith	Joey Kunselman

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

1/28/2024

Weekly Contributions	
Envelope Contributions	\$6,169.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$146.00
Per Capita	<u>\$112.80</u>
Total Contributions	\$6,427.80
Weekly Donations	
Rental Income—Head Start	\$1,245.00
OGHS	\$40.00
Pentecost	\$40.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$50.00
Christmas Joy	\$40.00
Food Bag	\$300.00
Community Committee	\$25.00
Christian Ed	\$100.00
Men's Fellowship	<u>\$120.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$1,960.00.00
Total	\$8,387.80

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Tuesday, February 6

6:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Wednesday, February 7

1:00 p.m. Caring Callers, Ministry Central

4:30 p.m. Food Bag Meeting

6:00 p.m. CE Team

7:00 pm Deacons Meeting, Ministry Central

8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Thursday, February 8

12:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle, Chapel

2:00 p.m. Food Bag Distribution, CE Building

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice

Next Sunday, February 11

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. Worship

No Sunday School, Confirmation Class or Choir Practice

11:00 a.m. Souper Bowl of Caring, Social Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation Class will meet in Ministry Central today instead of the Pastor's Office.

The 66th Annual Report of the Permanent Memorial Endowment Fund was mailed on Monday, January 29, 2024 to each church member's household. Additional copies are available upon request.

Souper Bowl of Caring is Next Sunday, February 11th. Please bring your most delicious soup and/or bread to share. Donations will go to our Food Bag Ministry. We will be in the Social Hall immediately after Worship. We hope to see you there!

2024 Sunday morning memorial/honor flowers: The signup calendar is in the Ramp Room. Select the date(s) you want and indicate the person(s) you wish to remember/honor. Please be aware that the cost has increased from \$25 to \$30. The delivery fee remains \$8. There are openings for March 3, 17, and 24. Call or email the church office to select a date.

Mission's Coat Project continues. The coat rack is on the walkway between the Ramp Room and the CE Building. Coats hung on the rack are for anyone who needs a coat. If you need a coat, please take one. If you have a coat or two that are new or still in great shape, hang them on the rack so someone else may be blessed with their warmth this winter. New or gently-used boots are also needed. The Coat Project will run from now until spring.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Roma Kline & Wayne L. Fulton Scholarship Fund applications are now available in the church office and on the Resources page of our website. The deadline to apply is March 31. The Fulton Scholarship is available to church members and children of church members who are full-time students pursuing a bachelors or associate degree at an accredited college or university; both first year and subsequent year students. Applicants must have a 3.0 GPA or higher in high school or during their previous year of enrollment. Applicants are eligible to receive this scholarship twice. Donations to the Fulton Scholarship Fund are always accepted. Please make checks payable to "The Presbyterian Foundation", designate Fulton Scholarship Fund on the notation line and send to the church office.

Looking Ahead:

- Ash Wednesday Service, Weds., February 14—7:00 p.m.
- Blue T-Shirt Sunday, Feb. 18th—Wear your PDA shirts!

MEMBER CARE

Please pray for:

- *Members with known health concerns:* Ruth Ann Minich, Randy Cable, Margy Port, Don McCord, Rick Goble, and those who are homebound.
- *Our family and friends in need of prayer:* Shirley & John McKinley's relatives: Mary Biser, Charlotte Hartman, Kenneth Daugherty Jr., Ben McKinley, and David Mahle; Kristen Maze's neighbor, Laurie Dickey; Beverly Wentling's daughter, Rebecca Irwin; Bert Louder's grandson, Anthony Louder; Jim & Pat McConnell's friend, Pat Hargest and Jim & Pat's son Michael; Marianne Reynolds' mother, Alice Davis; Jeff Deitz's friend, Alexandra Sharrar; Peggy, Dee Wenner's sister-in-law; Dr. Shannon Penland; Mary Kay Arth, Carolyn McFarland's friend; Kay Fye, Tamalyn Goble's mother; Tracey & Jody Hall, Stu & Stacy Hoffman's daughter and granddaughter; Janna Scovel; Tom Minnich, Bill Champion's friend; the family and friends of Janelle Moore; the family and friends of a Keystone junior who took his life; Dawn Reed and family; Mason Martin and his family; Angelo Gehenio; Jeri Reddinger; Joe Amato; and someone who just had surgery.
- *Everyone serving in the US Military.*
- *Our faith partners: Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda.*

Homebound Member of the Week: Please remember Marsha Spencer, Shippenville Health Care & Rehab, Rm. 205, Paint Blvd., Shippenville, PA 16254.

FEBRUARY 4, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

taking faith home

Jesus' followers are sent to serve.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people
Monday	Isaiah 40:21-31	The Lord gives strength
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	For the sake of the gospel
Wednesday	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Gratitude for mercy
Thursday	Joshua 22:1-6	The eastern tribes return
Friday	Acts 20:25-35	Paul speaks to the elders
Saturday	Psalms 147:1-11, 20c	Praise the Lord
Sunday	Mark 9:2-9	Transfiguration of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He [Jesus] came and took her [Simon Peter's mother-in-law] by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.
Mark 1:31 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, we give you thanks and praise for raising us up to a new life to worship you and serve others with joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, you feed the animals and even the young ravens. We thank you for nurturing us with your presence in Jesus and for this meal today. Amen. (Psalm 147)

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with the joy of service.

FEBRUARY 4, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Describe someone you know who likes to serve others.
- A disciple's life is one of service. How is this important to the good news of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:29-39.

Jesus heals Simon Peter's mother-in-law from an illness, a condition possibly approaching death. There is a clear association with the resurrection in this reading. This woman, whose name is not given, is touched by Jesus, lifted up, and begins to serve. This is a description of discipleship of all the unnamed followers of Jesus throughout history: touched and healed by Jesus, given new life, and sent out to serve. There is no hesitation about her calling; as a disciple, she serves. Other references to serve are found in Mark 1:13 when the angels of God served Jesus in the wilderness, and again in Mark 10:45; Jesus as the Son of Man came to serve. Service is the life of a follower of Jesus. It is not a burden. It is the great joy of life. Those who think the "good life" is to be served by others miss the point of the "gospel life" of Jesus. The joy of living is the ability to use whatever gifts one may have to bless others with service. *Discuss:* In what ways have you experienced joy when serving others?
Pray: Living God, help us to see and believe that the life worth living is a life of service that brings peace, joy, and your saving grace through Jesus Christ, our great healer. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you bring Jesus' healing touch to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Isaiah 40:21-31 expresses great joy at the saving presence of God in the lives of the exiles, those who have felt abandoned and imprisoned by others. Write a list of names of those you know who are experiencing difficult times.

Pray: Lord God, help (read list of names) feel your presence and know that those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. In Jesus' name, amen. (Isaiah 40:31)

