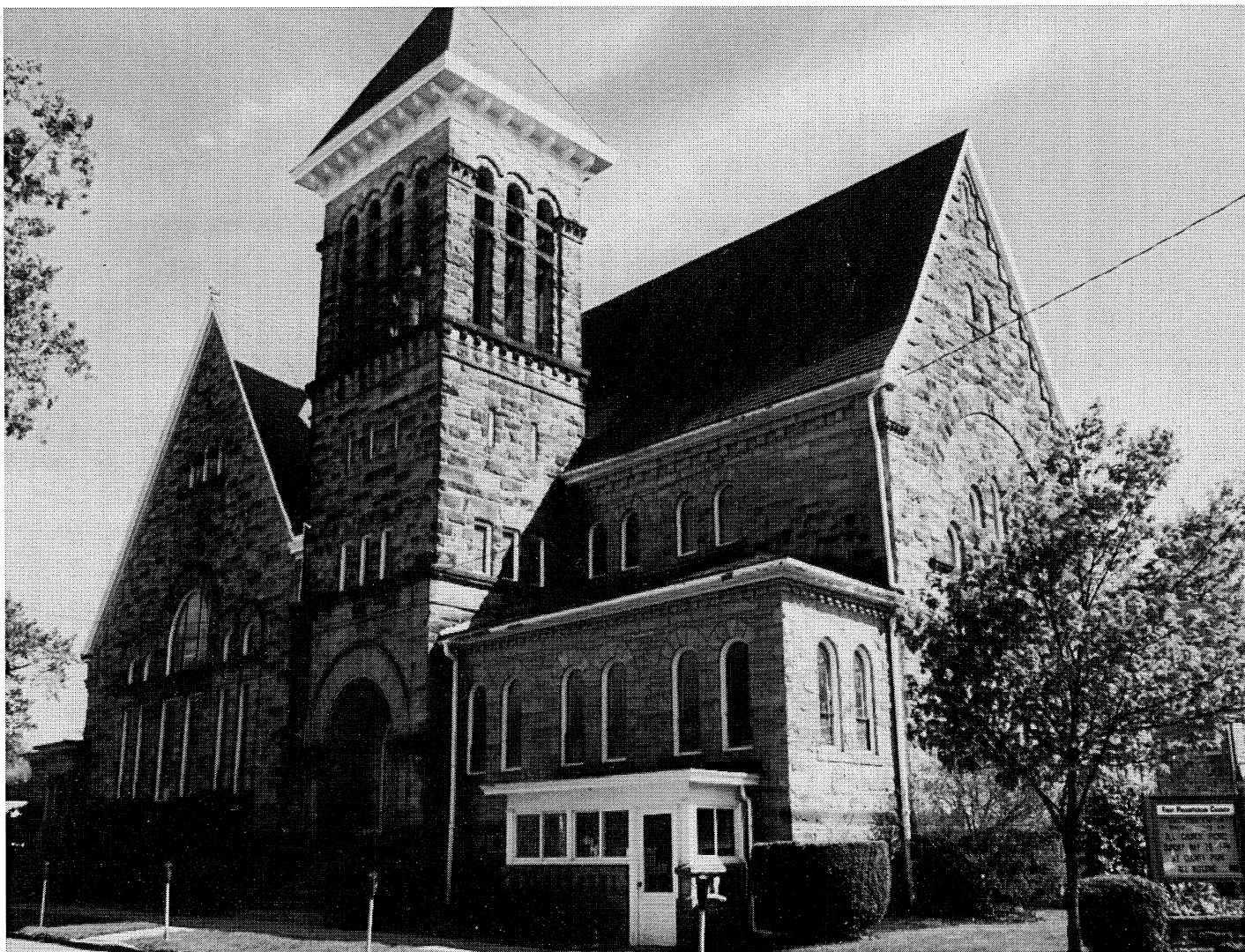


# *First Presbyterian Church*

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*Seventh Sunday of Easter*  
*May 12, 2024*



**700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214**

**814-226-8145**

**[churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org](mailto:churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org)**

**[www.clarionfirstpresby.org](http://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)

Seventh Sunday of Easter

**Welcome and Announcements**

Lector, Jeff Deitz

**Minute for Mission**

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

**Prelude**

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

William Moore,  
arr. Franklin Ritter

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**Introit**

*We Are Standing on Holy Ground*

Geron Davis

**Call to Worship**

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

What a blessing! We gather to listen and to discern God's will.

**What a fellowship! We join together and share our testimony in the presence of God.**

Our delight in God will be our song of praise.

**We come to worship God with our whole hearts.**

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

✦ **Hymn No. 41**

*O Worship the King*

✦ **Call to Confession**

Remember that our great high priest, the Lord Jesus, can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Because of this, we can approach the throne of God's grace with boldness, to seek to get rid of those things that drag us down and hurt others, to seek God's mercy, and to receive God's grace in our times of need. Friends, let us confess our sins to God.

✦ **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

**O Christ who prayed for us, died for us, and lives for us, you taught us that we belong to you, and your word is our truth. Forgive us, O Lord, when we live as if we belonged only to ourselves. Forgive us, O Lord, when we foolishly think that power is the ultimate truth. Speak your words of peace to us this day, and make our lives a testimony to your grace. For you are the source of life itself, and only in you can we truly live. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.**

✦ **Declaration of Forgiveness**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Because of what Jesus did, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives us of all our sin, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life.

Friends, believe the Good News!

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

✦ **Gloria Patri**

**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

## We Share God's Word

**Time with the Children**

Debra Owens

**Prayer of Illumination**

Jeff Deitz

**First Scripture**

Jeremiah 10:1-10a

(p. 711)

**Second Scripture**

2 Timothy 1:1-15

(p. 211)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Mothers”

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦ Hymn No. 324

*For All the Faithful Women*

## We Give Thanks to God

✦ Affirmation of Faith

*The Brief Statement of Faith 11.4*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles, rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

*Love Enough to Give*  
(Soloist: Brinley Davenport)

John D. Horman

✦ Doxology

✦ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

## We Go Forth to Serve

✦ Hymn No. (see insert)

*God of the Women*

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

*Festal March from “Rinaldo”*

George F. Handel,  
arr. Harold K. Marks

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### 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](http://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](http://www.clarionfirstpresby.org) or a phone app is available at [sermon.net](http://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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## 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

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Pastor:** Rev. Rebecca Mihm  
**Lector:** Jeff Deitz  
**Time with Children:** Debra Owens  
**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:** Lori Smith, Monta Rader, Doug Bills

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Marilyn Fox, by the Stants families.

## 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
11:00 a.m.	Choir Practice

## WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

5/5/2024

### Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$1,785.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$309.00
Per Capita	\$149.60
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$2,243.60</b>

### Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$300.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
Jesus Christ Superstar Tickets	\$123.35
Pastors Discretionary Fund	\$25.00
Blessing Box	\$200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$668.35</b>

**Total** \$2,911.95

### Online Donations 3/24, Deposited 4/24

Offering Contributions	\$643.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$643.24</b>

**Grand Total** \$3,555.19

## NOTES:

# God of the Women

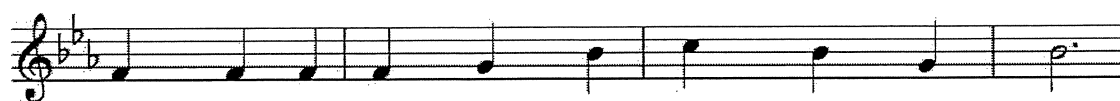
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 1998

*Slane*

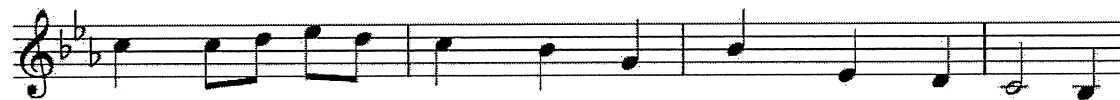
ancient Irish ballad



1. God of the wo - men who ans - wered your call,
2. God of the wo - men who walked Je - sus' Way,
3. God of the wo - men long put to the test,
4. God of the wo - men who ran from the tomb,
5. O God of Phoe - be and mi - ni - sters all,



Trust - ing your pro - mi - ses, giv - ing their all,  
 Giv - ing their re - sour - ces, learn - ing to pray,  
 Left out of sto - ries, for - got - ten, op - pressed,  
 Prayed with the oth - ers in that up - per room,  
 May we be joy - ful in an - swering your call.



Wo - men like Sa - rah and Han - nah and Ruth—  
 Ma - ry, Jo - an - na, Su - san - nah, and more—  
 Qui - et - ly ask - ing: "Who smiled at my birth?"—  
 Then felt your Spi - rit on Pen - te - cost Day—  
 Give us the strength of your Spi - rit so near



Give us their cour - age to live in your truth.  
 May we give free - ly as they did be - fore.  
 In Je - sus' dy - ing you show us our worth.  
 May we so glad - ly pro - claim you to - day.  
 That we may share in your mi - ni - stry here.

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Copied from *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship*

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000).

Email: [carolynshymns@gmail.com](mailto:carolynshymns@gmail.com) | New Hymns: [www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com)



## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Monday, May 13

6:00 p.m. Mission Team, Ministry Central

7:00 p.m. Worship Team, Chapel

### Tuesday, May 14

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

### Wednesday, May 15

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

### Thursday, May 16

10:00 a.m. Morning Circle

12:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle, Chapel

4:00 p.m. Seed to Supper Class, Social Hall

5:30 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice

### Saturday, May 18

8:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Eat'N Park

### Next Sunday, May 19 Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Bell Practice

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Reception—Chapel

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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. New or gently-used tennis shoes are also needed.

**Our deepest sympathies** to Robin Peterson & her family on the death of her mother, Ella Irene Henry on Saturday, May 4, 2024. Ella was a member of Sligo Presbyterian Church.

## PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable

Margy Port

Don McCord

Rick Goble

Shirley McKinley

Sue Burns

All our homebound members

Mary Biser

Charlotte Hartman

Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.

Ben McKinley

David Mahle

Laurie Dickey

Anthony Louder

Pat Hargest

Michael McConnell

Alice Davis

Alexandra Sharrar

Dr. Shannon Penland

Mary Kay Arth

Tracey & Jody Hall

Mason Martin and family

Angelo Gehenio

Jeri Reddinger

Joe Amato

Tom Minich

Rob Summerville

Evie Renwick

Richard Moore

A person going through  
some family issues

Bridget Mattson

Cori

Ellen DiBernardo

### Bereaved

Jim Hager Family and  
Friends

Travis Raddaker Family and  
Friends

Ella Henry Family and  
Friends

### Around the World

Everyone serving in the US  
Military

Gitwe Congregation in  
Rwanda, our faith partners

### Homebound Member of the Week

Tim Fulton  
Clarion Healthcare & Rehab  
999 Heidrick Street,  
Clarion, PA 16214  
Belated Birthday on May 7th.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast** is Saturday, May 18th, at 8:00 a.m. at Eat'N Park. Come join us for good food and fellowship. Please contact Bill if you plan to attend (814) 764-3886.

**Don't forget to wear RED!** Next Sunday, May 19th, is Pentecost, when we celebrate the birth of the church. "By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit all believers being vitally united to Christ, who is the Head, are thus united one to another in the Church, which is his body (*Westminster Confession of Faith*—6.054). Therefore, we will have a party to celebrate the birthday of the church and to welcome the two confirmands who publicly professed their faith. Come join us in celebration,

### Looking Ahead:

- The **Heritage Brunch**, celebrating members with 50 or more years in this church family, will be held on Sunday, June 9th. Invitations will be sent out for those celebrating this milestone of faithfulness. RSVPs must be returned by May 28th so the Deacons can plan appropriately.
- **Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 30th through August 2nd.** This year's theme is rumored to be pretty exciting! More details will be revealed as the time draws closer. Do not miss it!!!

**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

MAY 12, 2024  
SEVENTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER

taking  
faith  
home

*Jesus prays for our protection in the world.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples
Monday	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Mathias replaces Judas
Tuesday	1 John 5:9-13	Knowing about eternal life
Wednesday	2 Samuel 22:1-4	David's song of thanksgiving
Thursday	Psalms 40:1-10	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Friday	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	Requests for prayer
Saturday	Psalms 1	The way of happiness
Sunday	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Work of the Holy Spirit

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"And now I [Jesus] am no longer in the world, but they [disciples] are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."*

John 17:11 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear Lord Jesus, for your wisdom, healing power, saving work, and prayers for our protection and care for our life together, we give you thanks. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this meal that gives us strength and for your life-giving word filled with wisdom, light, and love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God watch over you and protect you from all harm.

MAY 12, 2024

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Blest Be the Tie That  
Binds*

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:

- Tell or think about a time you got hurt and who helped you.
- How can our faith help us when we get hurt?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 17:6-19.

Jesus acknowledges that his followers will remain in the world even while he is no longer physically present. This passage reflects the adage that Christians are to be in the world but not of the world. John 3:16 is an anchor for the Gospel of John's approach to the world. God loves the world. What is the world? It represents all that resists and rejects the revelation of God through Jesus. What a contrast! We, as Jesus' followers are to love and pray for those people who oppose God and God's rule of the world through Jesus. This is truly a daunting challenge. It is so great that Jesus must pray for our protection from "the evil one" (v. 15), the power that opposes everything God stands for. Jesus' prayer includes the desire for our unity so that we may be one in Christ. Living in a world opposed to the light, to truth, and to faith in Christ, we are cautioned not to let that which opposes love and faith divide us.

*Discuss:* What do you see happening around you that you think may divide Jesus' followers through the powers of this world?

*Pray:* **Compassionate God, we thank you for your protection and guidance for our lives; help us to be your light and truth in a world that does not know you and Christ our Lord. 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 help protect someone from harm?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Today in the United States, it is Mother's Day. It is an opportunity to honor all women who have cared for you. In the church, motherhood represents the important role of caring for and nurturing others in the journey of faith. Take time to give thanks and pray for the women who have cared for you. Consider reaching out to them with a call, note, or email.

*Pray for them:* **Dear God, I thank you for the gift and life of [name/s] who has shown me love and faith in your name. May she be blessed with joy and peace in knowing you through the love of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**



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