



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, WEST PENN

"...where worship and service don't stop with the final hymn."

Rev. Virginia M. Heimer, Pastor
Carol Steigerwalt, Director of Music

April 2, 2023 ~ Palm/Passion Sunday

Worship Service ~ 9:00 AM Sunday School ~ 10:15 AM

(Please turn off your cell phone.)

We Gather to Seek God's Presence

Prayer of Preparation

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son, Jesus, you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection. Amen.

Greeting/Announcements/Joys, Concerns & Prayer Updates

Prelude

"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

by Ignaz Franz & K. Gesangbuch

Lighting of the Candles

(All who are able, please stand.)

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

L: This is a day of joyous welcome, yet it is tempered by doom.

P: **We welcome Christ with waving branches; we wait with him through hours of agony.**

L: Our leader comes humbly riding a donkey; blessed is He.

P: **Jesus rides into the tumult of our times and people still oppose his way of love.**

L: Yet love prevails in spite of opposition.

P: **Let us give thanks that God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Opening Hymn

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

#300

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek God's Forgiveness

Call to Confession

(silence for reflection)

Prayer of Confession *(in unison)*

Holy God, we blame others when the hosannas end and the parade turns into a mob scene. We heap our doubts on you even though our inaction adds power to those who shout: “Crucify.” We rebel against the risks of discipleship and refuse to cry out against the evil we see. Forgive our cowardice and help us to stand with Christ in a world that has forgotten humility and obedience to you. O God, help us to be faithful, no matter the cost. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Song of Praise *(sung)*

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I’m so glad you’re in my life; I’m so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way;
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord I lift your name on high.

(The congregation may be seated.)

We Listen for God’s Word to Us

The Palm Narrative: *Matthew 21: 1-11*

The Second Reading *Philippians: 2: 5-11*

Blessing of the Palms

(All who are able, please stand.)

The Passion Narrative *Matthew 27: 11-54*

(The congregation may be seated.)

Special Music “The Holy City” by Stephen Adams
 ~offered by the Senior Choir

Reflection “A Single Special Purpose”

(All who are able, please stand.)

Affirmation of Faith for Palm Sunday *(in unison)*

We believe that God is continually at work in our lives and in our world: To heal strife and discord. To comfort the lonely and grieving. To encourage the disheartened. To offer hope to those who despair. We believe that the same Jesus who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey: Enters our hearts today. Triumphs with the power of love. Shows the way of strength through weakness. Calls us his friends and family. Invites us to share his life. We believe that the Spirit has been given: To remind us of our identity in Christ. To empower us to take up the cross. To enable us to abide in Christ's love. To illuminate for us the Word of God. To enliven us as resurrection people in a fallen world. This we believe so that we might joyfully share God's life and faithfully live as Christ's disciples. Amen.

(The congregation may be seated.)

The Offering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

“We Will Glorify”

by Twila Paris

(All who are able, please stand.)

The Offertory Response *(sung)*

*We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is Thine alone –
A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen*

Offering Prayer *(in unison)*

Loving God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Communion

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving/Communion Prayer

L: May the Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us lift up our hearts.

P: We lift our hearts to God.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: Let us pray...

**P: (Sung) Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy Glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

The Lord's Prayer *(in 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

Words of Institution

Blessing of Elements

Breaking/Pouring

Sharing of Elements

(Gluten-free bread cubes and grape juice can be found in the center of the trays. Children are invited to come forward for a blessing during the distribution of the elements; children on the lectern side may come forward during the distribution of the bread. Children on the pulpit side may come forward during the distribution of the wine.)

Prayer after Communion *(in unison)*

Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. By the power of your Holy Spirit, unite us with all those Christ welcomes, that we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

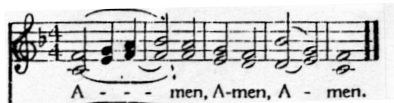
(All who are able, please stand.)

Closing Hymn

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

#297

The Benediction with Three-fold “Amen”



Extinguishing of Candles/Silent Meditation

Choral Blessing *(sung)*

“Go Now in Peace”

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

Postlude

“Glorify Thy Name”

by Donna Adkins



LECTORS: *Terry Wehr and Merk Hunsicker.*

ACOLYTES: *Lyma Dunbar and Kailee Thomas.*

BELL RINGER: *Liam Nelson.*

SOUND SYSTEM: *Mark Eberts.*

LAST WEEK’S BIRTHDAY OFFERING *received from Althea Zehner.*

APRIL VISITATION LIST BIRTHDAY: *Buddy Arner, Jr. (April 2nd).*

To our St. Peter’s, West Penn Church Family,

The Senior Choir kindly request that you refrain from applause after our anthem. We appreciate the recognition of our music, but as we are singing praise to God, we would prefer that you give Him the thanks and praise in prayer. Thank you again for your support!

Since some people are hanging on by the thinnest thread . . .

You just might be that thread!

The Coming of the King!

Sometimes we may speak or shout the truth without realizing just how right we are. That happened on the first Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on, not a prize-worthy stallion, but a young, unimpressive, donkey.

Remember the roar of the crowd? "Hosanna (Save us!), Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord." They were waving palm branches, a symbol of peace, as they hailed Jesus as their king. Was Jesus a king? Jesus didn't deny it. When the Pharisees told him to rebuke the cheering crowd, he said, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

Pilate, the Roman procurator and judge, taunted the Pharisees by saying, "Here is your king." That made the chief priests furious. "We have no king but Caesar," they protested.

Pilate turned Christ over to them, but he still wanted to taunt Jesus' insistent persecutors. John 19:19 says that Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. In three languages (Hebrew, Latin and Greek) it read:

The King of the Jews. That enraged Jesus' enemies even more. They asked Pilate to change the wording. "What I have written, I have written," the stubborn ruler answered.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of the Resurrection surely thought so. In Acts 17:7 we find that the first Christians were accused of "saying there is another king, Jesus." The writer of the book of Revelation envisioned the day when the whole world would understand that the risen Christ was not only Lord and Savior but also, as he put it, "Lord of lords and King of kings." (Revelation 17:14) ~ unknown



**PRAYERS FOR OUR ARMED FORCES
AT HOME AND ABROAD**



Deployed to Japan:

John McGuire

Deployed to Africa:

Jonathan Liggitt

Michelle Liggitt



**Active Duty,
Not Deployed:**

Jacob Coombe

Patrick Donohue, II

Mark Habel

Dustin Hoppes

LeRoy E. Kromer II

Timothy Kromer

Ezekiel Kuneck

Sean Kurtz

Antonio Lorenzo

Dominic Lorenzo

Amanda Miller

Lisa Miller

Austin Resch

Tyler Resch

Trevor Schilling

Andy Snyder

Chad Wehr

Mark West

Scott West

Michael Zeigenfuss

PRAYERS FOR THOSE ON OUR VISITATION LIST

Gracedale Nursing Home: Lynn Gerber

Maple Shade Meadows: June Williams

Heritage Hill Senior Community: Warren Steigerwalt-Room 17

Scenic View: Olga Faust

At Home:

Buddy Arner

Robert Coombe

Larry Miller

Velma Schaeffer Doris Wolfe

PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

**Michael, Kay, Mikayla, Leilani, & Michael Killar in Thailand
Maude, Valera, Zarina, Alexander, & Nicolas Motovilov in the
Czech Republic**

Say a Prayer for:

*Rev. Russ Campbell
Ruth & Carl Miller
Matt Brickler
Leonard Miller
Paul Drosnock
Chester Jones
Ralph Fisher
Gary Steigerwalt
Ronald Yuricheck
Dan McMullen
Dan Myers
Bob Goerner
Gladys Balliet
Robert Coombe
Althea Zehner
Loretta Beers
David Schoch
Erin Coombe
Dorothy Miller
Sharon Tanczos
Karen Lenhart
Billy James
Wyatt Davis
Rita Yarnell
Laurie Black
Eric Breiner
Darryl Moyer
Betty Breiner
Betty Clark
Debbie Peipher
Rose Bear*

*Sherry Seip
Maggie Wehr
Nancy Domanski
Melinda Frey
Linda Agosti
Walter Szymanski
Logan Pribila
Bruce Wolf
Lori Fairchild
Franklin Mackes
Thomas Miller
Mark Abrachinsky
Greg Blackall
Lana Kuehner
Lucas Milot
Travis Flannigan
Paul David
Zayden Mabey
Gary Zehner
John Kowlewski
Jessica Nehm
Aiden Kreimendahl
Mike & Bernice Delp
Diane Middlecamp
Gino Lorady
Kim & Dave Carson
Marion Kupres
Louise Billman
Tony Masor
Sherry Walz
Shari Yediny
Darlene Kunkel*

*Erla Biasi
Carolyn Kunkle
Aspen Murphy
Jillian Datchko
Pastor Nathan Kennedy
Russel Stull, Jr.
Veronica Steigerwalt
Donna Roderick
Jaden Leiby
Justin Klotz
Gene McCormik
Mike Rascho
William Shirar
Amy Meixsall
Jackson Delebar
Austin Klein
Melissa Drake
Lorna Hart
Carson Barron
Caroline Lantz
Nancy Barkus*



**If you know of someone to be added or removed from the Prayer List, please contact
Pastor Ginny, Chris Miller or the church office.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

Today, Sunday, April 2: *Palm Sunday*

9:00 AM Worship Service

10:15 AM Sunday School

Monday, April 3:

7:15 PM Play practice

Tuesday, April 4:

6:00 PM Bible Study

Thursday, April 6 : *Maundy Thursday*

7:00 PM Model Seder Meal ~ Ben Salem

Friday, April 7: *Good Friday*

11:00 AM~2:00 PM Pickup filling orders at the South entrance

12:00 ~ 3:00 PM St. Peter's, church will be open for all those who would like to spend time in prayer in the sanctuary

7:00 PM Good Friday Service at St. John's Mahoning

Saturday, April 8:

1:00 PM Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

Next Sunday, April 17: *Easter Sunday*

6:30 AM Easter Dawn Service ~ Celebration of Holy Communion
(breakfast)

9:00 AM Worship Service ~ Celebration of Holy Communion

10:15 AM Sunday School

**For complete details on these events, please consult your newsletter.*

Don't Forget!!
St. Peter's Sunday School is holding their Annual
Easter Egg Hunt
NEXT Saturday, April 8th, 2022
1:00 PM SHARP!



There will be a presentation by a Princess Cruise Line Representative on ***Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM*** at St. Peter's Church social hall for the purpose of outlining the Alaska Land/Cruise Tour to be held July 2 ~ 17, 2024. All are welcome! For additional information, please contact Sue Conner at 570-778-5367

March 26, 2022

Attendance: 89

Total Current Offering: \$ 2,774.50

Building Maintenance Fund of: \$ 167.00

Plate Offering: \$ 85.00

Year-to-date Fuel: \$ 490.00

Year-to-date Elevator: \$ 20.00

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Benevolence:

Total YTD: \$ 3,209.00

(2022 combined benevolence goal is \$10,000.00)

St. Peter's Church, West Penn

184 St. Peter's Road Tamaqua PA 18252

570-386-4388

Rev. Virginia M. Heimer, Pastor

For Pastoral Care or Emergency:

Pastor Heimer's Cell: 610-762-3840

Pastor Heimer will be in her office on:

Tuesdays and Wednesday from 10:00 AM ~ 4:00 PM

Thursdays from 9:00 AM ~ 1:00 PM

Friday ~ OFF; Saturday ~ SABBATH DAY

(Contact for emergencies only, please. Non-urgent communications, please email)

Contact for our TLC Committee for Your Special Needs:

Please call Sue Conner at (570) 778-5367, or text her at jrotc@ptd.net.

Director of Music: Carol Steigerwalt

Sexton: Lou Ann Algard

Financial Secretary: Jacqueline McCandless Church Office: Elaine Koons

Church Office Phone: (570) 386-4388

Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10:00 AM~2:00 PM

Wednesday-10:00 AM~1:00 PM

E-mail addresses: Pastor Heimer: pastor@stpwp.com

Church Office: info@stpwp.com

Financial Secretary: financials@stpwp.com

Sunday School: spwpsundayschool@gmail.com

Web Site Address: <https://www.stpeterschurchwestpenn.com>

Web Master email: info@stpwp.com

Facebook: St Peter's Church of West Penn