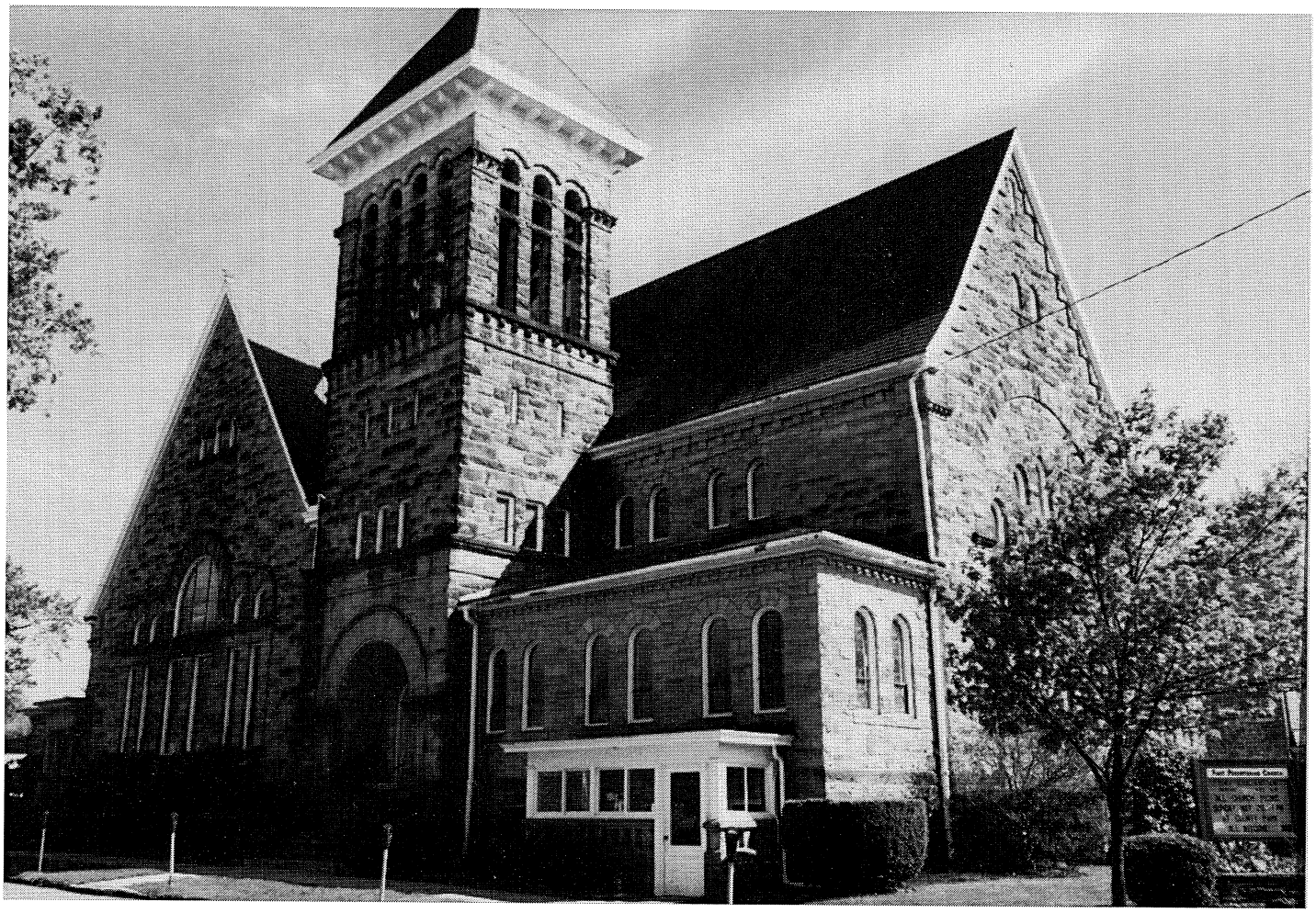
# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*3rd Sunday after Epiphany*
*January 24, 2021*



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.

**Welcome, Visitors.**
We are glad you are here. Please fill out a Welcome Card so that we can get to know you better.

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.

**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 Gather in God's Name

**(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)**

**Prelude** *Prelude on "Morning Star"* James P. Harding, arr. Tom Chesterton

**Welcome and Announcements** Lector, Joe Burns

**Call to Worship**

Arise, shine, for your light has come!
**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**
Let us praise the Lord together.
**The sun shall no longer be our light by day,**
**nor will the brightness of the moon shine on us,**
For the Lord will be our light, and our God will be our glory.
**The Lord will be our everlasting light,**
**and our days of sorrow will end.**
Come, let us sing to the light of our salvation!

✝**Hymn** No. 170 *You Walk along Our Shoreline* Text: Dunstan, 1984 Music: Steurlein, 1575

**Call to Confession**

Trusting in the promise of grace, let us pour out our hearts before God.

**Prayer of Confession**

**O Holy God, you called the disciples to drop their nets and follow you, yet we are hesitant to drop the tools and comforts of our lives. We distract ourselves from your call with busyness, stress, and worry. We tangle ourselves in webs of racism, sexism, and hatred that disguises itself as fear. Forgive us, O Lord, and by your forgiveness, open our ears to hear your voice saying to us, "Follow me."**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

The true light that gives light to everyone came into the world. To all who have received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become Children of God. I declare to you that in His light we are forgiven. **Amen.**

✝**Gloria Patri**

# We Share God's Word

**Time with the Children** Tamalyn Goble

**Scripture Reading** Mark 1:14-20 (NRSV)

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. 16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Speak to us your Word, O God, that we may hear Jesus' call to be his disciples. **Amen.**

**Message** — Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr.

"God's Calling You (Us)!"

**Prayer for Courage**

**✟Hymn** No. 410 — *God Is Calling through the Whisper* — Text: Bringle, 2003; Music: Polish carol

## We Give Thanks to God

**✟Affirmation of Faith** — The 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 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.**

**Call for the Offering**

**Offertory** — *The Lighthouse* (Soloist: Glenn Beichner) — by Ronnie Hinson

**✟Doxology**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers for the People and Lord's Prayer**

## We Go Forth to Serve

**✟Hymn** No. 832 — *Here on Jesus Christ I will Stand* — Text & Music: Kenyan hymn; Adapt. And arr., Scheer, 2007

**✟Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude** — *Praise to the God of Our Salvation* — Robert J. Hughes

**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.

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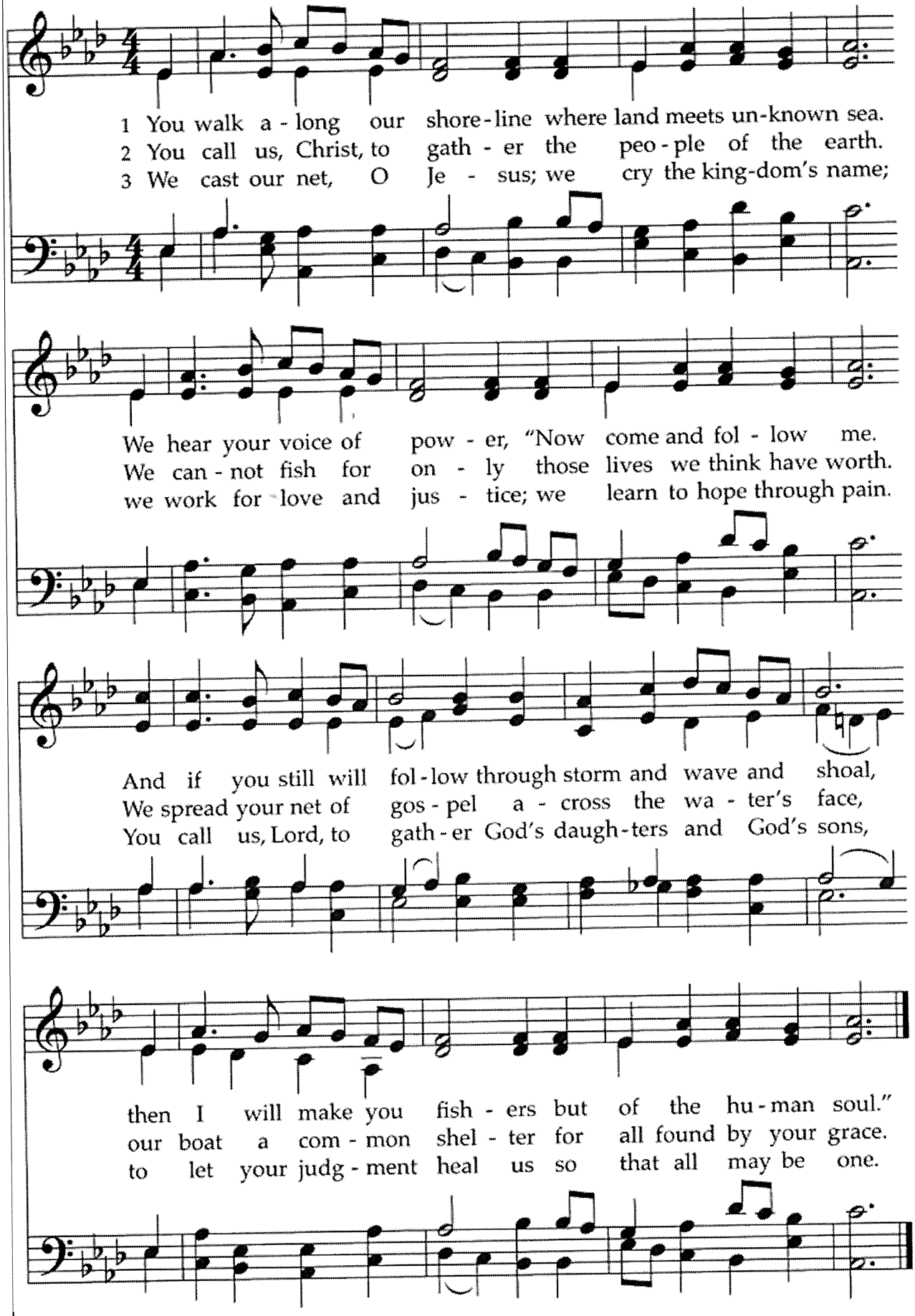
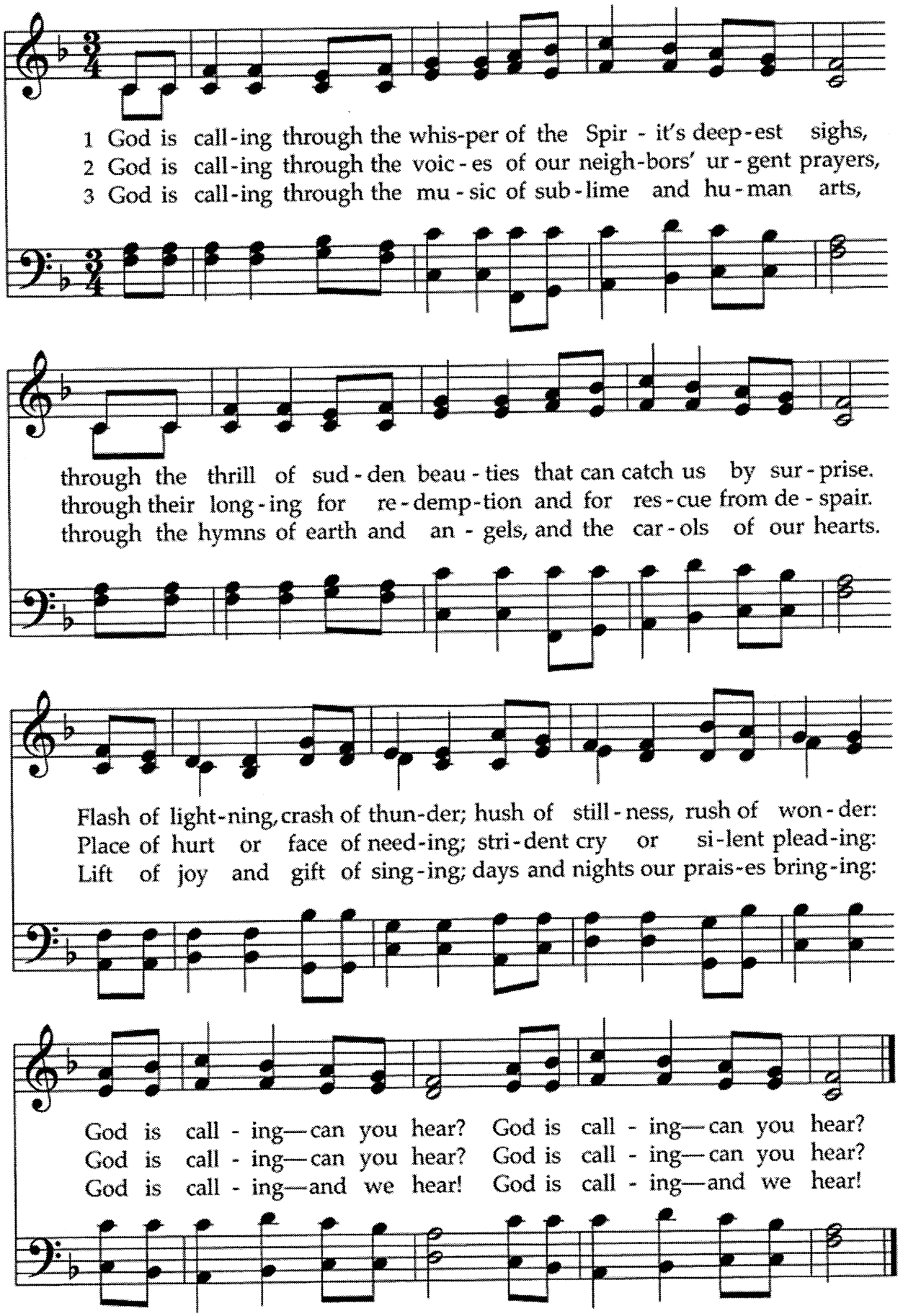
# You Walk along Our Shoreline 170

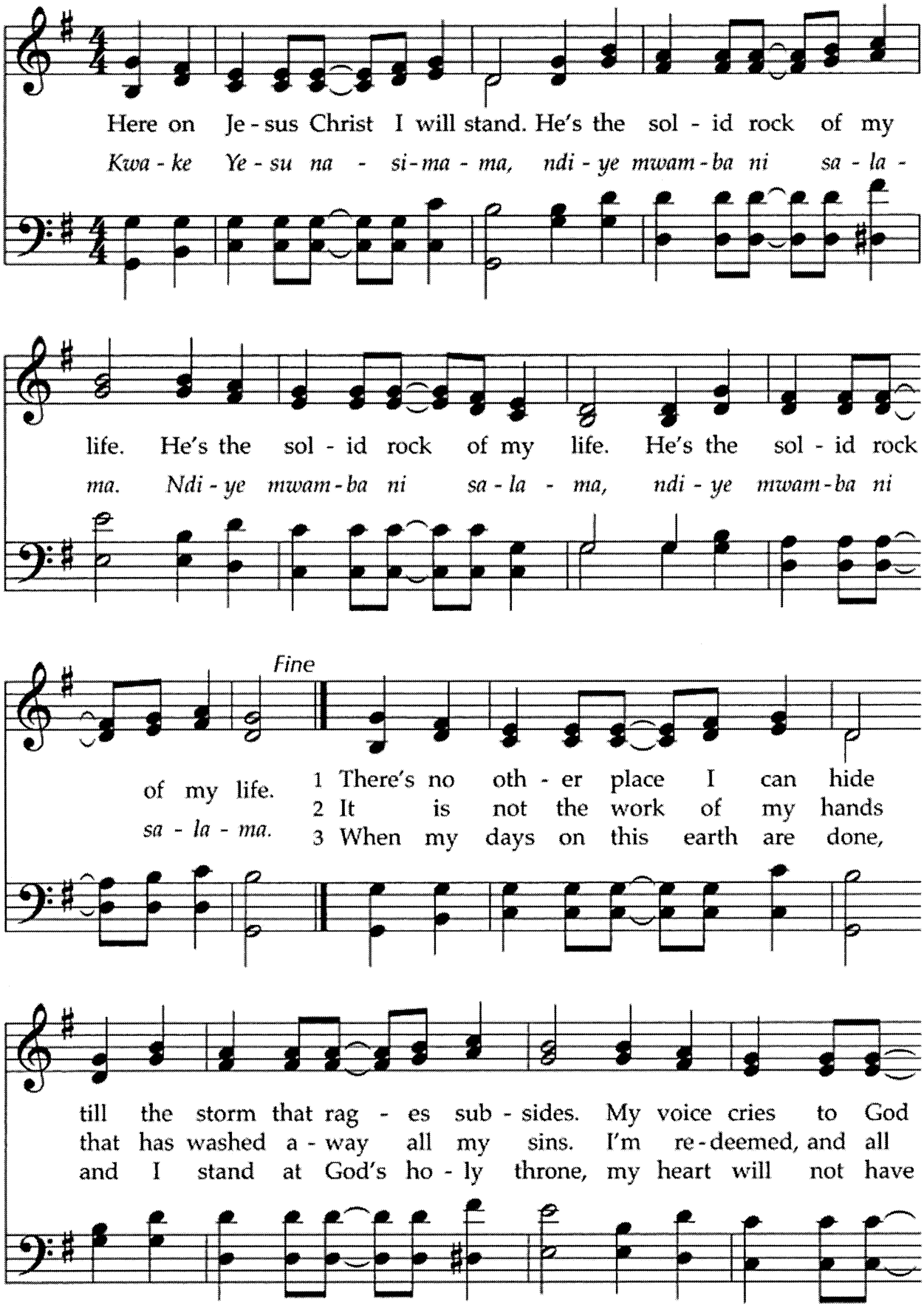


# 410 God Is Calling through the Whisper

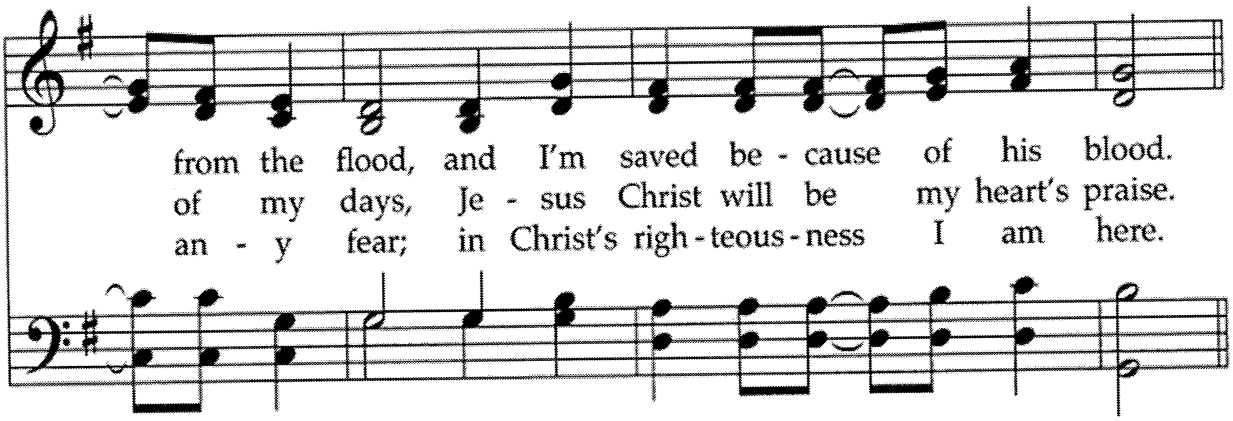


# 832 Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand

*Refrain* *Kwake Yesu Nasimama*



*to Refrain*


from the flood, and I'm saved be - cause of his blood.
of my days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise.
an - y fear; in Christ's righ - teous - ness I am here.

**JANUARY 24, 2021**
**THIRD SUNDAY**
**AFTER EPIPHANY**

taking faith home

*There is peace in waiting for God.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday | Mark 1:14-20 | Jesus calls the first disciples |
| Monday | Jonah 3:1-5, 10 | Jonah goes to Nineveh |
| Tuesday | 1 Corinthians 7:29-35 | Live without anxiety |
| Wednesday | Philippians 4:4-7 | Paul encourages his co-workers |
| Thursday | Isaiah 40:26-31 | The Lord gives strength |
| Friday | Joshua 1:1-9 | The Lord speaks to Joshua |
| Saturday | Psalm 62:5-12 | God is powerful and kind |
| Sunday | Mark 1:21-28 | Jesus teaches in the synagogue |

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.*
Psalm 62:5-6 (NRSV)

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

**A Prayer for the Week:**
Dear God, my soul waits for you in silence; let me wait for you with confidence, peace, and hope through Jesus Christ. Amen. (Psalm 62:5-6)

**Mealtime Prayer:**
In peace we eat this food before us; in faith we receive this food with thanksgiving. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**
May the steadfast love of God be yours as you place your trust in the good news of Jesus Christ. (Psalm 62:12 and Mark 1:14)

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**JANUARY 24, 2021**

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*He Comes to Us As One Unknown*

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:

- What are some things that distract you and lead you to worry?
- How might God want you to deal with your worries?
- Why do you think the psalmist encourages us to wait for God's presence in silence? (Psalm 62:5)

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* 1 Corinthians 7:29-35.
The lectionary text ends at verse 31, but without verses 32-35, the heart of Paul's thought can be missed. Paul originally anticipated that Christ's return would happen in his own lifetime. Attention to marital matters, grief over the death of a loved one, concern for possessions, and daily schedules and responsibilities detract from the higher attention to "devotion to the Lord" (v. 35). What is helpful for us today is to be reminded that routine tasks can dominate our thoughts and we can miss the greater joy and calm that is ours through Christ. Our lives are finally, not measured by the demands of the day but by the steadfast love and faithfulness of God that is shown to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Yes, be responsible for the sake of the love of neighbor, but do not be defined by any accomplishments or failures. Be known, understood, and loved as a child of the risen Lord. Then we are able to hear the heart of Paul's message in verse 32: "I want you to be free from anxieties." Be free, be attentive, be faithful, and, of course, experience God's grace, mercy, and peace, not anxiety or fear. Indeed, isn't this part of what Simon and Andrew and James and John experienced when they walked away from the beach to follow Jesus in Mark 1:14-20? When have you been able to let go of anxiety because of the greater good that God has in store for you?
*Pray:* **God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, give us peace to see you in the midst of all things, and let us be devoted to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

There is much anxiety in people's lives. Seek out someone you know who is experiencing frustrations or worries. Take time to listen to them and offer them a prayer of hope and comfort.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Contemplative prayer is a form of prayer that does not ask for specific requests. It is simply an openness to God's presence and what God may want to say to the person praying. Cross your arms over your body and breathe in saying: **Bless me with peace, O Lord.** As you exhale say: **Thank you for your peace, O Lord.** Do this several times and then sit in silence until you feel ready to conclude with: **Amen.**

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **www.milestonesministry.org**

## This Week at First Presby

**Wednesday, January**
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, Social Hall

**Sunday, January 31**
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

## Announcements

**A congregational meeting is being called to be held on Sunday January 31, 2021 at the conclusion of the worship service for the purpose of receiving annual reports and to confirm a replacement trustee for the Permanent Memorial and Endowment Fund (PMEF).**

**Offering Envelopes are in the Ramp Room.** They are in alphabetical order. Please find yours and take it home. Any not picked up by the end of January will be mailed out.

**Sunday flowers for the Sanctuary are back!** The sign-up poster is in the hall by the church office. If you prefer, you may call or email the church office with your reservation for those you wish to remember or honor: 226-8145 or churchoffice@clarionpresby.org.

**Our next Communion is Sunday, February 7th.** We will continue using prepackaged communion elements. Anyone who prefers may bring their own items. They will be consecrated and blessed at the time of communion.. Please bring your food item in a zip-loc or similar bag to protect it and use a container with a sealable lid for your liquid.

**Special thanks to Community Action** for the loaves of bread donated for our recent food distribution. They were offered the morning of the distribution and immediately delivered. Support from our Clarion community is always appreciated.

**The Church wishes to acknowledge** with great gratitude the bequest of $26,173.57 from the estate of the late **Ernest Aharrah.** Ernie was a faithful member of this church for 62 years.

**Our deepest sympathies** to the family and friends of Kenneth Hritz. His wife, Char, is a member of our church. Virginia Motzer, also a member of our church, is his mother-in-law, and Brenda Mazzocchi his sister-in-law.

**Our deepest sympathies** to the family and friends of Doris Lawrence, paternal aunt of our members Suellen Gourley and Ann Brooks.

## Announcements Continued

**Planning ahead, our next Sharing Cupboard Sunday is February 28th.** Help support our local friends and neighbors in need. Please bring donations of non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, paper products and personal hygiene items to help re-stock the shelves of the Clarion Community Action Food Bank.

## Nuggets of Wisdom

But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted about many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41-42.

This is an interesting picture of Jesus in the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. Mary and Martha had different interests and temperaments. Martha demanded of Jesus that he make Mary help her. Jesus recognized Martha's concern but suggested that she "keep her cool" as Mary had in listening. It is easy for us to lose our control when someone fails to help us as we feel he/she could. Let us keep our priorities in order, and exercise patience when it is needed.

Starting Your Day with God: A Thought for Each Day
from The Word of God, New Testament and Psalms,
Dr. Joseph M. Gettys

## Member Care

**Please pray for**:

- *Members with known health concerns:* Pat Steward, Ruth Showers, Fred Port, Jim Young, Dorothy Jean Foreman, Herb & Dee Thrush, Rick Beggs, Mary McCamant, Pat McConnell, and Pauline Henry.
- *Our family and friends in need of prayer:* Shirley McKinley's nephew, Kenneth Daughtery Jr.; John McKinley's great-nephew, David Mahle; Marianne Reynolds' parents, Robert & Alice Davis; former treasurer, Jennifer Hurrelbrink; Norma Kooman's son-in-law, Jamie Lake; Carolyn McFarland's brother and his wife, Rick and Janelle Moore; Kristen Maze's uncle, Charles Gamble; Ellen DiBernardo's friend, Barbara Frampton; and Robin and Randy Cable's friend, Alex Arth; Pastor Paul's daughter, Helen Abell; and Debra Owens' sister, Lee Proctor.
- *And all of those serving in the US Military* including members and friends of our own faith family.

**Caring Caller member of the week:** Please remember Virginia Motzer 161 S. 2nd Avenue, Clarion, PA 16214-2403.

## 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 when regular worship resumes, you will come join us so we may personally extend a warm welcome. If you have any questions or particular needs during the church closure, please feel free to contact Pastor Paul Abell at the church office at 226-8145 between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. You may also email him at pastorpaul@clarionpresyb.org.

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

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

**Radio Broadcast-**WWCH 1300AM and 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).

## Church Staff and Leadership

| | |
|---|---|
| **Interim Pastor:** | Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr. |
| **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:**

| Class of 2021: | Class of 2022: | Class of 2023: |
|---|---|---|
| Bobbie Cumo | Joe Burns | John Joy |
| Jeff Kapp | Robin Cable | Bert Louder |
| Elaine Matticks | Michelle Deitz | Jim McConnell |
| Marissa Widmer | Cindy Stants | |

**Deacons:**

| Class of 2021: | Class of 2022: | Class of 2023: |
|---|---|---|
| Doug Bills | Tamalyn Goble | Suellen Gourley |
| Pam Reid | Mike Hetrick | Cindy Kapp |
| Dana Solida | Carolyn McFarland | Norma Kooman |
| Amy Widmer | Debra Owens | |

## Worship Notes

| | |
|---|---|
| **Pastor:** | Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr. |
| **Lector:** | Joe Burns |
| **Time with Children:** | Tamalyn Goble |
| **Director of Music:** | Bonnie Champion |
| **Organist:** | Jean Mitrosky |
| **Sound Engineer:** | Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp |
| **Video Engineer:** | Dan Willy |
| **Greeter and Ushers:** | Mike Hetrick, Doug Bills |

**Special thanks to Glenn Beichner, for presenting the special music during this morning's service.**

## Today's Schedule

**Sunday, January 17**
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

## Weekly Deposit Summary 1/19/2021

| | |
|---|---|
| Envelope Contributions | $9,443.00 |
| Miscellaneous Cash Contributions | $49.00 |
| Per Capita | $201.90 |
| **Total Contributions** | **$9,693.90** |
| Food Bag Donations | $1,275.00 |
| **Total Deposit** | **$10,968.90** |

## Notes

*Feel free to use this space to take notes on the sermon, the service or for any personal reminders that may help you in your walk with God this week*