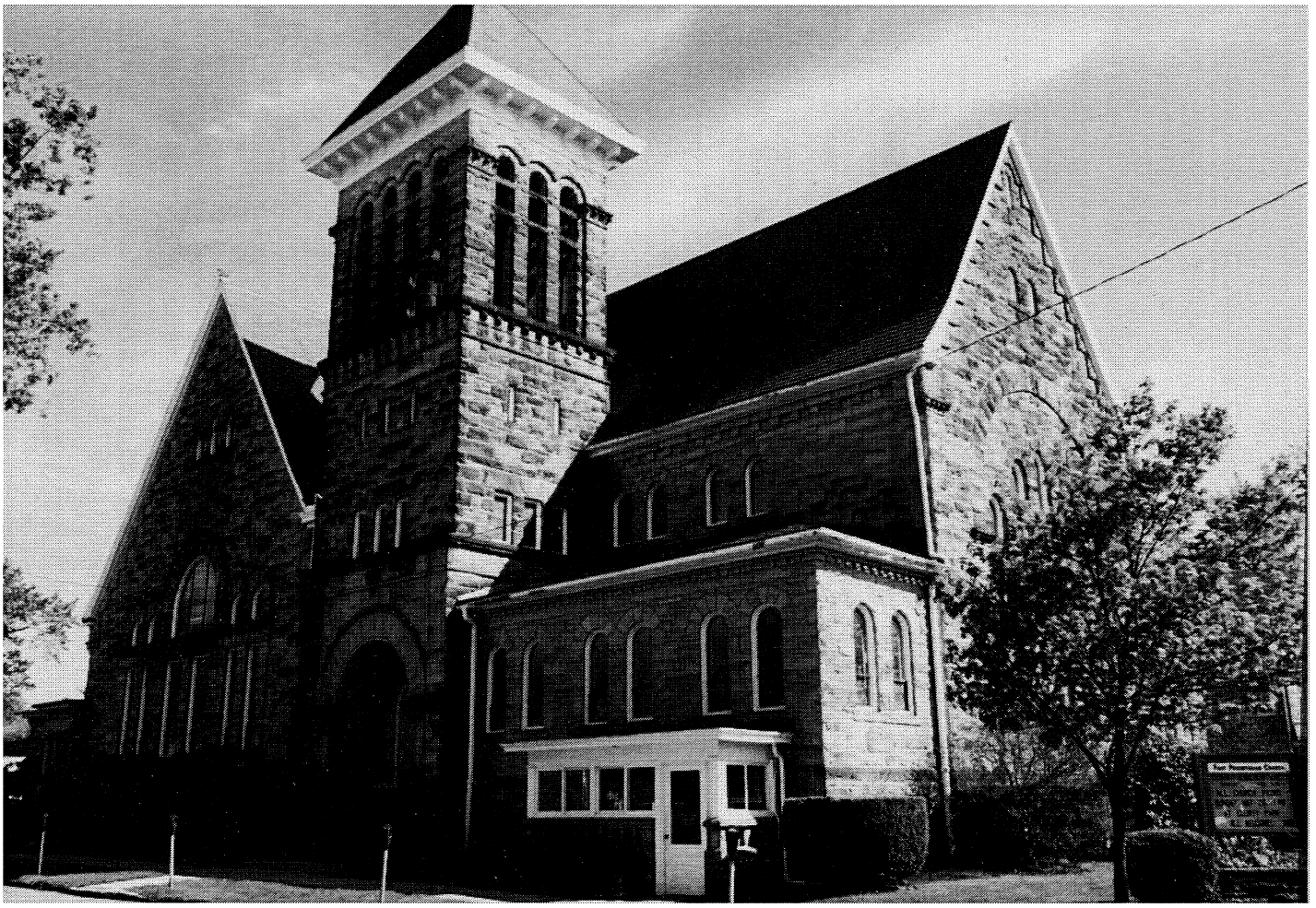
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 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.

We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

Welcome and Announcements — Lector, Bert Louder
Minute for Mission — Tamalyn Goble

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

Prelude — *Bist Du Bei Mir* — J. S. Bach
(Flautist: Clarissa Amato)

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

Call to Worship

When the disciples were certain that Jesus was dead,
he stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."
Let us watch for the risen Christ this day,
bursting in with new life and new hope.
Easter people, Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

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

✞**Hymn** No. 236 — *The Strife Is O'er*

Text: Latin hymn, c. 1695; trans. Pott, 1861
Music: da Palestrina, 1591; adapt. Monk, 1861

Call to Confession

The One who calls us to repent, hears us. In trust that our Creator knows us through and through, let us open our hearts to the healing of God's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious God, we are creatures of dust, ignorant of your revelation, misunderstanding your life, death, and resurrection among us, needing forgiveness. We repent of our failure to give as you have given to us. We beg you for your mercy for our fallen world. We seek in your Word, that we may live with the faith of Jesus. We ask this as your children, holy and incomplete. Forgive us and lead us. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, our pleas for absolution have been heard. God's promises are sure: our sins are forgiven. Peace be with you. **And also with you. Amen.**

✞**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 — Tam Goble

Scripture Reading — Luke 24:36-48 — (NRSV)

[36] While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." [37] They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. [38] He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? [39] Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." [40] And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. [41] While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" [42] They gave him a piece of broiled fish, [34] and he took it and ate in their presence. [44] Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." [45] Then he opened their minds to understand the

scriptures, [46] and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, [47] and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. [48] You are witnesses of these things.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, by your Spirit reveal your radically, surprising love; come to us through your holy word, and let us hear what you are saying. **Amen.**

Message Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr.

"Mind-Melding: Freedom From Fear"

Prayer for Courage

†Hymn No. 702 *Christ Be Beside Me* Text: Quinn, SJ, 1969
Music: Gaelic melody; arr. Grotenhuis, 1985

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 *Festive Resurrection Medley*
(Festival Canticle: Worthy Is Christ; Jesus Is Risen; Christ the Lord Is Risen; Jesus Christ Is Risen Today—all published in Choral Praise Book)
(Flautist: Clarissa Amato)

†Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers for the People and Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

†Hymn No. 836 *Abide With Me* Text: Lyte, 1847
Music: Monk, 1861

†Charge and Benediction

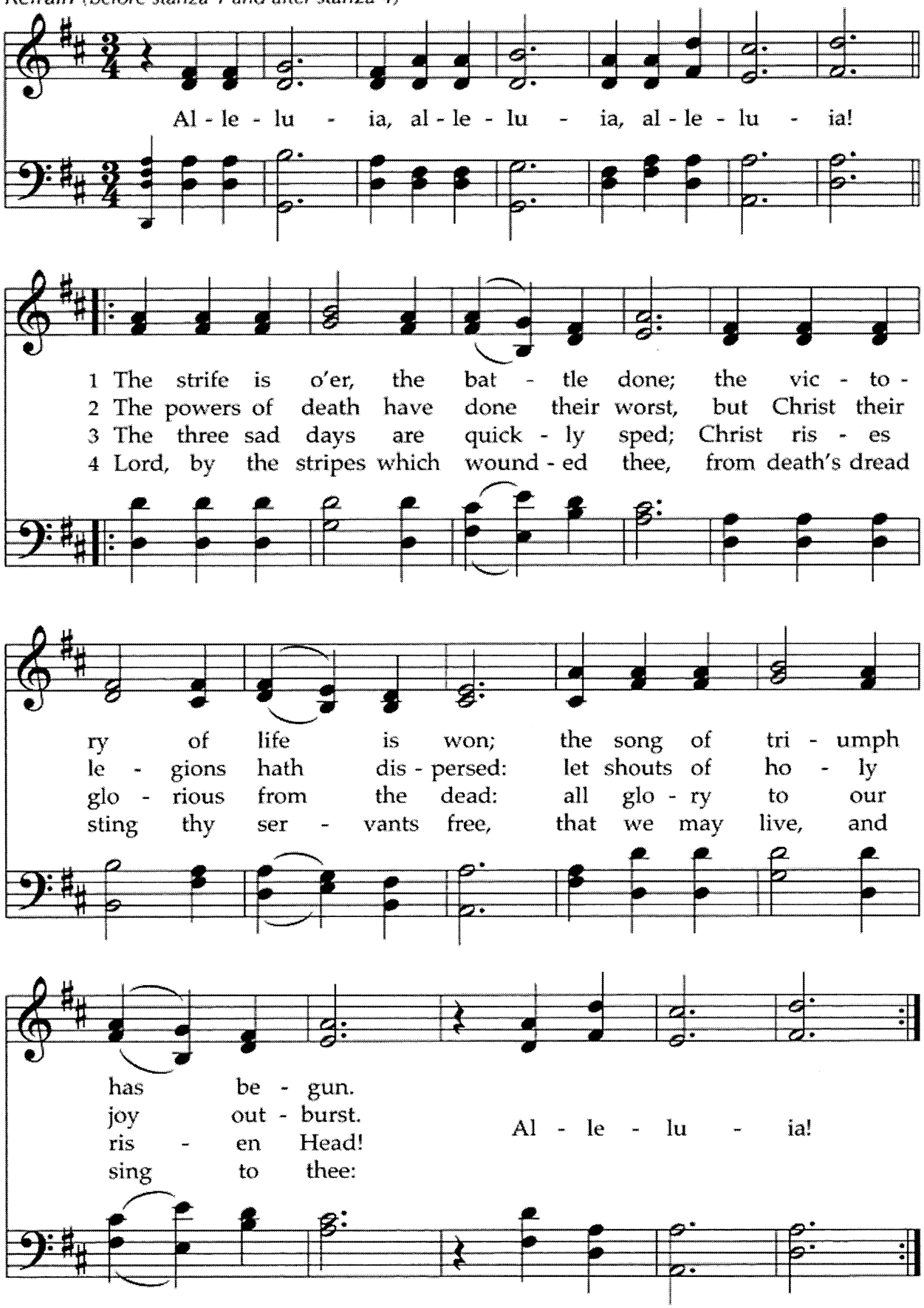
Postlude *Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise* Holy Anthem
St. Basil's Hymnal, 1889

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.

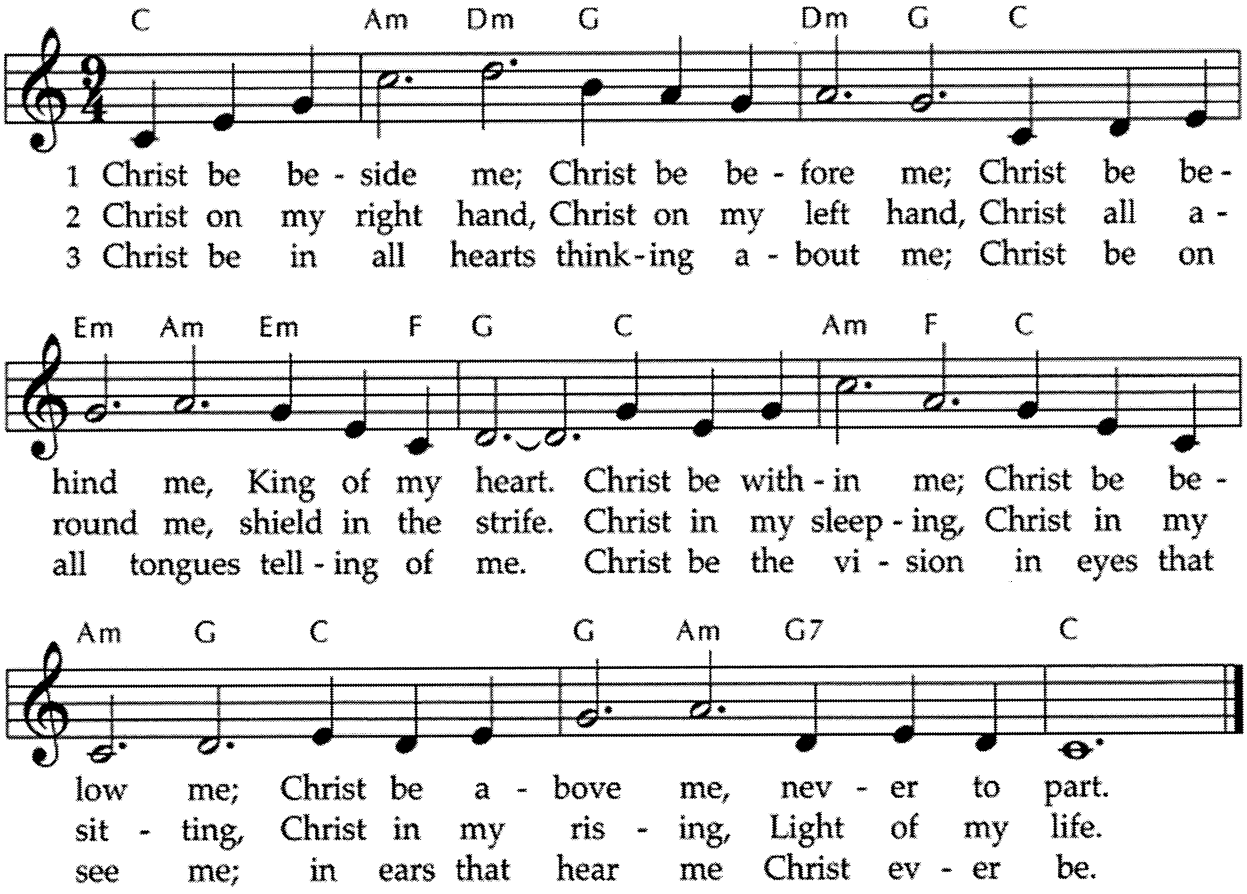
THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

The Strife Is O'er 236

Refrain (before stanza 1 and after stanza 4)



Christ Be Beside Me 702



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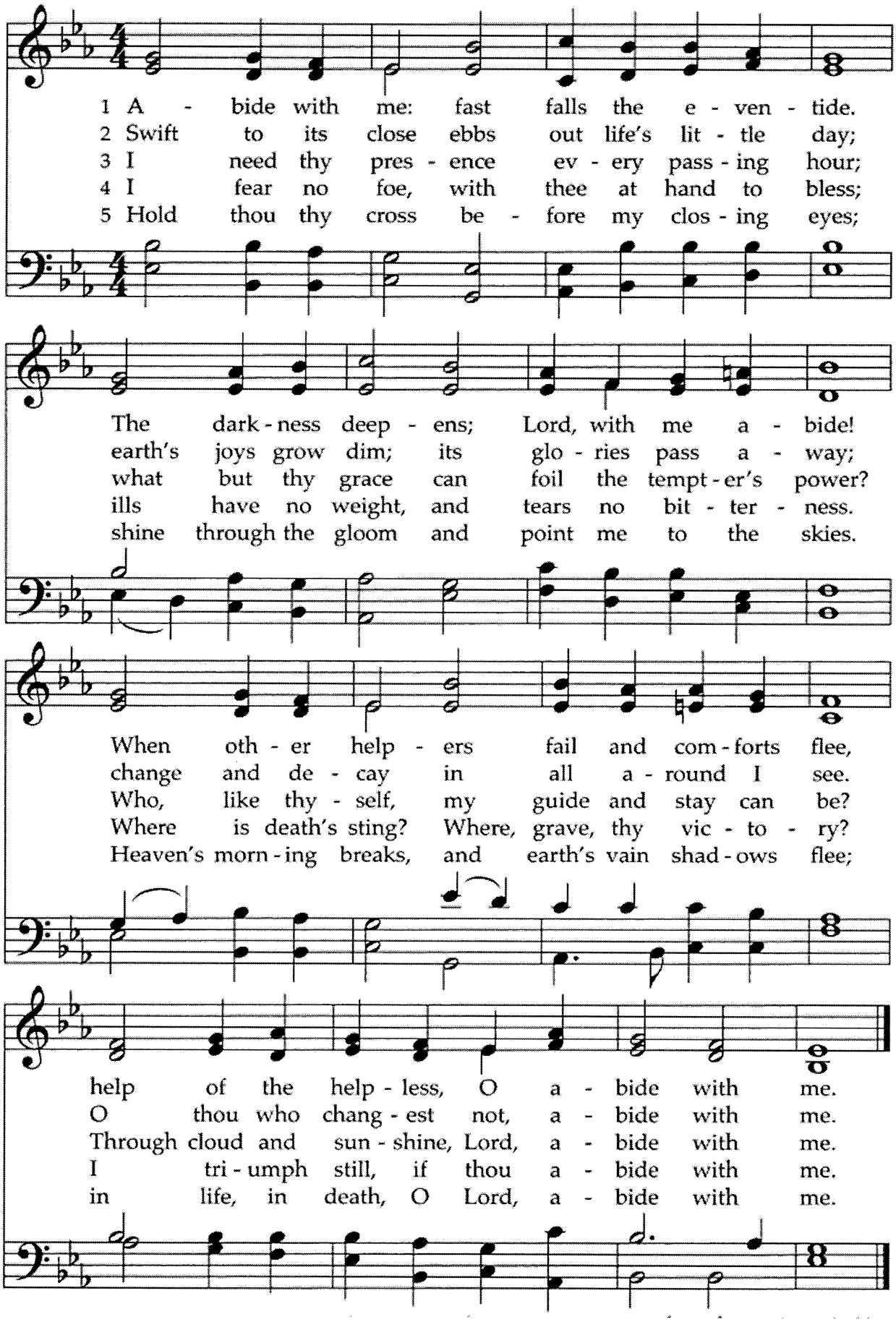
836 Abide with Me



APRIL 18, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

taking faith home

Jesus opens our minds to understand the scriptures.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	**Luke 24:36b-48**	**Jesus appears to the disciples**
Monday	**Acts 3:12-19**	**Peter speaks in the temple**
Tuesday	**1 John 3:1-7**	**Children of God**
Wednesday	**Joshua 1:1-9**	**God's commission to Joshua**
Thursday	**2 Timothy 3:14-17**	**Paul's last instructions to Timothy**
Friday	**Nehemiah 8:1-8**	**Ezra summons the people**
Saturday	**Psalm 4**	**An evening prayer**
Sunday	**John 10:11-18**	**The Good Shepherd**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then [Jesus] opened [the disciples] minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name." **Luke 24:45-47a (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Almighty and merciful God, help us to be aware of your grace that we may daily repent of our sins and turn to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, we give you thanks for the food that nourishes the body and for your word that nourishes the soul. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May the Lord keep you safe and grant that you lie down in peace. (Psalm 4:8)

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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APRIL 18, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lord, Speak to Us,
That We May Speak

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 is something you want to learn more about?
- What questions do you have about Jesus and the Christian faith?
- Who or where do you turn to when you want to know more about the Christian faith?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 24:36b-48.
It is clear that the first followers of Jesus were drawn to the Hebrew Scriptures to understand what happened to Jesus and what that meant for them as his followers. Jesus himself opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, that is, the Old Testament, since the New Testament had not yet been written. There is a continuity between the Old and New Testaments that Christians can easily overlook. Easter is a good time to commit to reading the Bible—Old and New Testaments—to seek a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and what his reign means for the world and the church of today. How can reading the Bible strengthen your faith and encourage you to share the message of Jesus in word and deed?
Pray: **Dear resurrected Savior and Lord, give us the desire to read the Bible, learn more about you, and share your message of forgiveness with those we meet. Amen.**

SERVICE

April 22 is observed as Earth Day around the world. Psalm 4 uses the image of an abundance of grain and wine to show the joy of knowing God. As we acknowledge that God is the creator of all things, it is good for us to care for what God has made. It is a source of joy. In what way can you experience the joy of God's creation this week through caring for the earth?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The end of the day is a good time to slow down, reflect on the day, and focus on God's place at the center of our lives. Take time before going to bed each day this week to think or talk about mountain highs and valley lows for the day and then read and reflect on this verse from Psalm 4:8, *"I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety."*

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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

Monday, April 19
7:00 p.m. Stewardship & Finance, Zoom

Tuesday, April 20
7:00 p.m. Session, Zoom

Wednesday, April 21
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, Social Hall

Sunday, April 25
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. The Church God Wants for Us!, Adults in Chapel

Announcements

The Church God Wants For Us! Today we will begin a six-week Adult Education program designed to explore the past, present, and future of our church. The meeting will be held in the chapel from 11:15 a.m. until noon.

Stewardship & Finance Team is meeting Monday evening, April 19th, via Zoom.

The Session meets Tuesday evening, April 20th, via Zoom.

Baby Supplies Drive. ABLE (Advisory Board for Leadership and Engagement) at Clarion University is accepting donations of baby supplies. Items requested include: Lotion, Powder, Bath Products, Q-Tips, Wipes, Diapers, Toys, etc. A donation box is in the Ramp Room. Donations are being accepted now through April 26th. Please consider supporting the university students seeking to serve our community.

The Deacons invite you to join them in their Mending Ministry of kindness and helping out. A service choice board, listing a variety of things you can do to help others, is provided in your bulletin. Using this, consider Jesus Christ's call to service by completing simple actions for community ministry. When you have crossed off 5 or more items, (The items don't need to be in any set pattern of completion.) return the anonymous board to a deacon or the church office. We'll display them to give praise for the things the LORD has done for us and through us. "Called to Serve" are open spaces for you to write your own mending action that isn't on the board. Write a quick note of your ministry. You are welcomed to complete as many boards as you feel led. Boards should be handed in by May 31st.

Nancy & Butch Campbell were longtime members here. Nancy is has ALS. They are in Florida but this summer will return to their home in Cooks Forest. If you would like to send a text to her cell phone (it is difficult for Nancy to talk on the phone), email her, or send a card here is the information: Nancy Campbell, 4816 Reginald Road, Orlando, FL +32829 Text: 814-229-7218 Email: njcampbell136@gmail.com

Announcements Continued

Looking Ahead:

May 9—Mother's Day
May 15—Outdoor Workday (Rain Date May 22)
May 16—Heritage Sunday
May 23—Pentecost
May 30—Military Recognition
June 6—Honoring Graduates

Nuggets of Wisdom

A REAL CHRISTIAN is an odd number, anyway. He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen; talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see; expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another; empties himself in order to be full; admits he is wrong so he can be declared right; goes down in order to get up; is strongest when he is weakest; richest when he is poorest and happiest when he feels the worst. He dies so he can live; forsakes in order to have; gives away so he can keep; and sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passeth knowledge.

A. W. Tozer

Member Care

Please pray for:

- *Members with known health concerns:* Ruth Showers, Fred Port, Jim Young, Dorothy Jean Foreman, Herb & Dee Thrush, Rick Beggs, Mary McCamant, Pat McConnell, Pauline Henry, and Mary Swanger.
- *Our family and friends in need of prayer:* Shirley McKinley's daughter, Charlotte Hartman and nephew, Kenneth Daughtery Jr.; John McKinley's great-nephew, David Mahle; Marianne Reynolds' mother, Alice Davis; former treasurer, Jennifer Hurrelbrink; Carolyn McFarland's brother and his wife, Rick and Janelle Moore; Kristen Maze's uncle, Charles Gamble; Ellen DiBernardo's friend, Barbara Frampton; Robin and Randy Cable's friend, Alex Arth; Pastor Paul's daughter, Helen Abell; Bill and Bonnie Champion's sister-in-law, Norma Stahlman Champion; and former secretary, Amy Haley.
- *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 Don McCord, 9 Maronee Street, Clarion, PA 16214-1657

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 needs, 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:	Bert Louder
Time with Children:	Suellen Gourley
Director of Music:	Bonnie Champion
Organist:	Jean Mitrosky
Sound Engineer:	Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer:	Dan Willy
Greeter and Ushers:	Dana Solida and Suellen Gourley

Flowers today are in loving memory of Robert Henry by Pauline Henry.

Special thanks to Clarissa Amato for today's special music.

Today's Schedule

Sunday, April 18

10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast on WWCH 1300AM and 94.1 FM
11:15 a.m.	The Church God Wants for Us!, Adults in Chapel

Weekly Deposit Summary 4/13/2021

Envelope Contributions	$2,255.00
Per Capita	$33.64
Total Contributions	**$2,228.64**
Food Bag Donations	$847.00
Total Deposit	**$3,135.64**

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