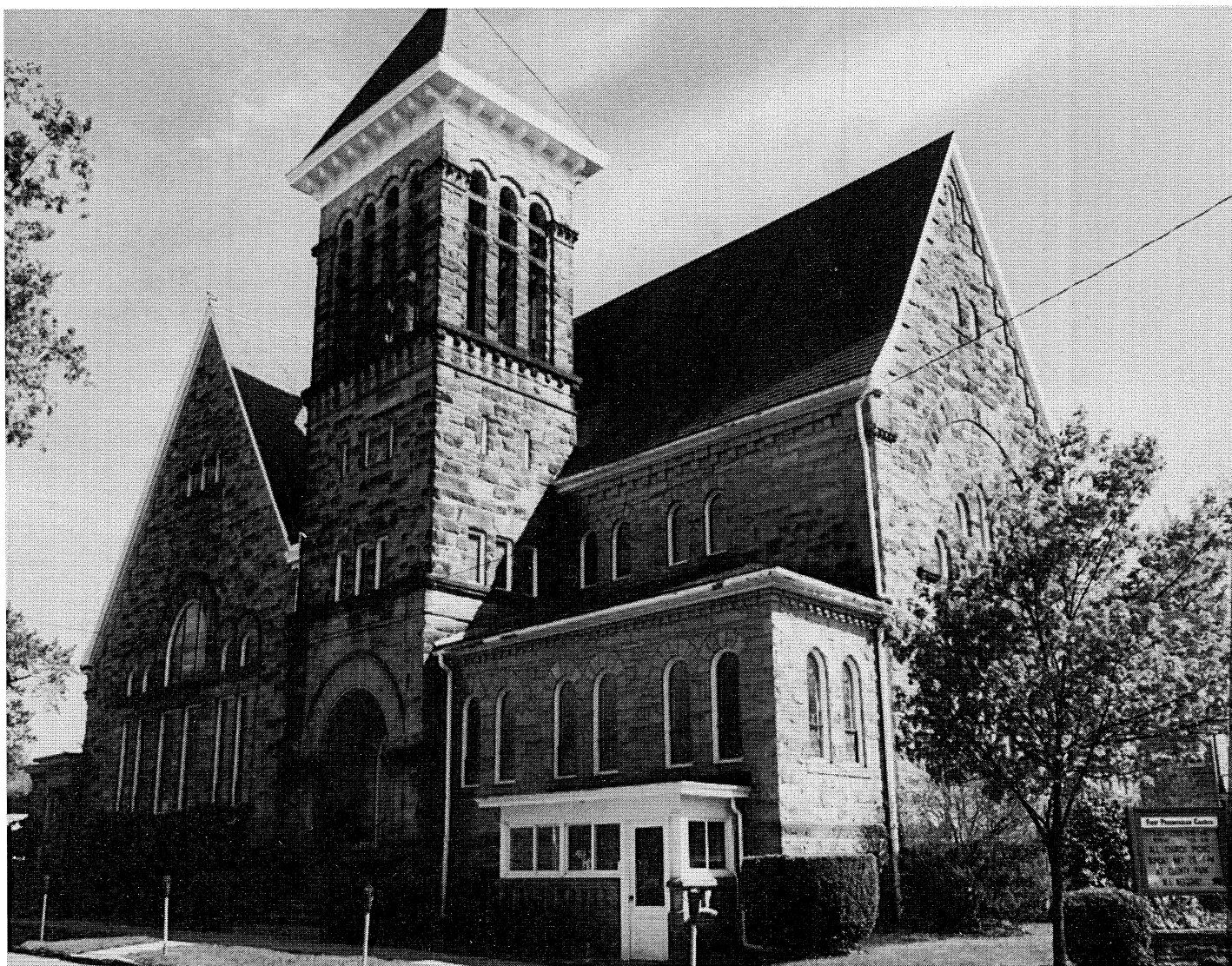


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*20th Sunday after Pentecost  
October 23, 2022*



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.**

PER THE SESSION, MASKS ARE NOW OPTIONAL UNLESS YOU HAVE AN UPPER RESPIRATORY AILMENT.

# We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

## Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Robin Cable

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

## Prelude

*God Is So Good*

arr. by Ginger Sprunger  
Aubrie Scovel

## Chiming of the Trinity

## Introit

*What Does the Lord Require of You?*

Text & Music: Strathdee, 1986

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

## Call to Worship

Gather round, young, older and in between; raise a voice in song.

**Gather together; come from near and far.**

Come, open and expectant; create a symphony of praise.

**Pray that God will weave us into a people of compassion, a community of prayer, and a family of care.**

Come, gather round; hear God's Word, and be challenged to serve.

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

## ✦ Hymn No. 401

*Here in This Place*

Text & Music: Haugen, 1979

## Call to Confession

Scripture says that if we say that we have not sinned, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But, if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. So, in humility and faith, let us confess our sins to God.

## Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Gracious God, you created us in your own image, set us in a garden filled with living creatures and instructed us to nurture and keep it. In the cool of the evening you came looking for us, but we hid ourselves from you. Throughout history, you have continued to come to us, and we have continued to turn ourselves from you. Help us to stop hiding from you. Let us stand before you now, acknowledging our temptations, seeking your sustaining presence, and accepting your grace found in Jesus. It's in his name we pray, Amen.**

## Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News! This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He, himself, bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that's good. Friends, believe the Good News:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

## 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

## ✦ Passing of the Peace

# We Share God's Word

## Time with the Children

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

<b>Prayer of Illumination</b>		
<b>First Scripture</b>	Jeremiah 31:31-34	(p. 735)
<b>Second Scripture</b>	Luke 18:9-14	(p. 81)
The words of scripture, inspired by God. Thanks be to God.		
<b>Sermon</b>	Rev. Rebecca Mihm	
	“Comparatively Speaking”	
✦ <b>Hymn No. 749</b>	<i>Come! Live in the Light!</i>	Text: & Music: Haas, 1988

# We Give Thanks to God

✠Affirmation of Faith	Adapted from the Shorter Catechism 7.033	
Justification is an act of God’s free grace, where he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.		
Call for the Offering		
Offering and Offertory	We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace	William Hooper
✠Doxology		
✠Prayer of Dedication		
Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer		

# We Go Forth to Serve

✦ <b>Hymn No. 203</b>	<i>Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love</i>	Text: Colvin, 1969 Music: <i>Ghanaian folk melody</i>
✦ <b>Charge and Benediction</b>		
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>Go and Share</i>	Christopher Walker
<b>Congregational Meeting</b>		

<p><b>DOXOLOGY</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>THE LORD’S PRAYER</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>POSTLUDE</b></p> <p>Please remember at the close of the service to remain quiet and seated until the conclusion of the Postlude, which marks the end of the worship service.</p>
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## 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 Congregational Care, please reach out to Elders Bert Louder (814) 758-0455 or Robin Cable (814) 221-1528.

**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 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](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).

## CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

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

### Ruling Elders:

<u>Class of 2022:</u>	<u>Class of 2023:</u>	<u>Class of 2024:</u>
Joe Burns	John Joy	Kathy Larimer
Robin Cable	Bert Louder	Elaine Matticks
Michelle Deitz	Jim McConnell	Pam Reid
Cindy Stants		

### Deacons:

<u>Class of 2022:</u>	<u>Class of 2023:</u>	<u>Class of 2024:</u>
Tamalyn Goble	Suellen Gourley	Bonnie Champion
Mike Hetrick	Cindy Kapp	Marianne Reynolds
Carolyn McFarland	Norma Kooman	Mary Swanger
Debra Owens		

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Pastor:** Rev. Rebecca Mihm  
**Lector:** Robin Cable  
**Time with Children:** Rev. Rebecca Mihm  
**Director of Music:** Bonnie Champion  
**Organist:** Jean Mitrosky  
**Sound Engineer:** Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp  
**Video Engineer:** Dan Willy  
**Acolytes:** Emma Willy, Aubrie Scovel, and Gavin Kunselman  
**Ushers in Charge:** Bill Champion, Kristen Maze, and Charlie Siegel

**Flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of Donald Deitz, by Jeff & Michelle Deitz.**

**Thank you to Aubrie Scovel for presenting the Prelude this morning.**

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship  
 —Congregational Meeting  
 11:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Adult Vocal Choir  
 12:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal

## WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

10/17/2022

Envelope Contributions	\$1,370.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$123.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$1,493.00</b>
Caring Callers	\$25.00
Food Bags	\$125.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
<b>Total Deposit</b>	<b>\$1,663.00</b>

## 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.*

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Tuesday, October 25

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

### Wednesday, October 26

12:00 p.m. Adult Lunch Study, Ministry Central

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

### Next Sunday, October 30

9:30 a.m. Adult Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Sunday School (Children, CE Building)

11:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Chapel

11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Practice

12:00 p.m. Cantata Practice

3:30 p.m. Installation Service for Rev. Rebecca Mihm

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

**The First Press Newsletter for November/December 2022 will be mailed out at the end of this month.** It will contain the basic info on church happenings for the next two months. Be sure to hang on to your copy so you have your schedule for the holidays.

**All Saints Sunday is November 6th.** We will be remembering those who entered the Church Triumphant and honoring them.

**Advent will begin on Sunday, November 27th, this year.** The hanging of the greens will take place prior to that date. Please watch your bulletin for the announcement of that date so you don't miss it!

**The Adult Choir will present a cantata during worship on December 11th.** The title is "God With Us!" It's not too late to join! Let Bonnie Champion know and she will have a book and CD ready for you!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Per the Session, masks are now optional unless you have an upper respiratory ailment. Please note that CDC guidance may result in future changes.**

**A Congregational Meeting will be held today, October 23, 2022** following the worship service for the express purpose of electing officers and to adopt proposed changes to the corporate bylaws of the church.

**Adult Lunch Study continues Wednesday, October 26th at noon.** Study Hope with other adults. Class meets in Ministry Central at noon.

**October 30th is Reformation Sunday. During that morning's worship service, we will process the banners that represent the confessions used through the history of the Presbyterian Church.** Rev. Rebecca Mihm will be using the service to explain the meaning of the confessions as a member of our church presents the appropriate banner. Come and learn just what those banners mean!

**Next Sunday, October 30th, at 3:30 p.m.** will be Rev. Mihm's Installation service. This is a very special service and meeting of the Presbytery. All are invited to come. The worship service will be a traditional service with Rev. Rebecca Mihm giving the Benediction. There will be a reception afterward in the Chapel.

## MEMBER CARE

**Please pray for:**

- *Members with known health concerns:* Fred Port, Randy Cable, and Jim & Pat McConnell.
- *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; Carolyn McFarland's relatives: Rick & Janelle Moore; Mary Kay Arth; Kristen Maze's neighbor, Laurie Dickey; Bob & Paula Bowersox; Beverly Wentling's daughter, Rebecca Irwin; Bert Louder's grandson, Anthony Louder; Ron Alberta; and Deb Owens' sister, Lee Proctor.
- *And all of those serving in the US Military* including members and friends of our own faith family.

**Homebound Member of the Week:** Please remember Cecilia "Bunny" Rhea, Highland Oaks at Water Run, Room 110, 300 Water Run Road, Clarion, PA 16214.

OCTOBER 23, 2022  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

# taking faith home

*Prayer and humility.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 18:9-14	A Pharisee and tax collector pray
Monday	Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22	Jeremiah prays to the Lord
Tuesday	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Paul's instruction to Timothy
Wednesday	James 4:5-10	Surrender to God
Thursday	Psalms 25:1-10	A prayer for guidance
Friday	Matthew 23:1-12	The example of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 84:1-7	The joy of worship
Sunday	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus visits Zacchaeus

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'" Luke 18:13 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

God of amazing grace, we thank you that we can be honest with you, knowing our broken lives are made whole in your love through Christ. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this gift of food and for all the ways you strengthen us, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus rescue you from any harm, any where, any time.

OCTOBER 23, 2022

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lord, Teach Us How to  
Pray Aright*

# 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:

- How would you describe a life lived with humility?
- When you pray, what requests or confessions do you make to God?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 18:9-14.

This parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector is a story of contrasts with a caution. The Pharisee offers a prayer of thanksgiving. However, he seems to be praying to himself as he demeans another soul. The tax collector, on the other hand, does not look around for comparisons; he doesn't even look up. He beats his breast with sorrow and, in so doing, gains the favor of Jesus. The tax collector's words, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" (v. 13), have been handed down throughout the centuries as a model prayer for us all. As an act of repentance and humility, the caution is for us not to praise the posture and prayer of the Pharisee, saying to ourselves, "Thank God I am not like that person!" Repentance and humility promote a way of life that does not draw attention to oneself nor claim to have the sole possession of what is true, right, and beautiful. Living faithfully does not give us bragging rights. This parable leads us away from judgment and toward openness to the presence of God and others.

*Discuss:* In what ways can you show repentance and humility in your life of prayer?

*Pray:* **Merciful God, give us faith to trust in you with a humble heart, to confess our brokenness to you, and to care for others through Christ Jesus 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 might you pray for the needs of others?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Luke 18:13 is one of the foundational texts for the Jesus Prayer. This prayer has been widely taught in the Orthodox Church as a monastic prayer but is not only limited to monks and clergy. It is a prayer for all people of all ages. This week, kneel as a sign of humility and pray the Jesus Prayer: **Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen.**