

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Attende Domine”

Solo: Nathaniel Worrell

arr. Lynn Trapp

Call to Worship

Psalm 119:1-2

Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

***Happy are those who keep God's decrees,
who seek the Lord with their whole heart,
who also do no wrong, but walk in God's ways.***

Hymn 418

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

“Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.”

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? **(Refrain)**

3 O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. **(Refrain)**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

***Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken,
we confess that we fail to fulfill your will.***

***Though you have bound yourself to us,
we will not bind ourselves to you.***

In Jesus Christ you serve us freely,

but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others.

We do not love you fully or love one another as you command.

In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us.

Restore us to you and one another,

and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life

and the vine from which we grow in grace.

Silent Confession

Kyrie 575

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson: John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Psalter: Psalm 119:9-16 [Hymn 64]

A Time with Children

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Sermon: "Read the Small Print"

Lenten Series: Covenants in Sky, Stone, Flesh, and Wine

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 64

"I Long for Your Commandments"

- 1 I long for your commandments; your judgments all are just.
Within your words is wisdom, your teachings understood
are comfort to my spirit's need and in the night my solace.
Your statutes are my song.

- 2 Without your lamp to guide me I wander from the way.
 Without your laws and precepts I stumble in the dark.
 Your understandings are my hope that I may run in freedom.
 Your ways are my release.
- 3 O God, I love your knowledge, more precious than pure gold.
 It satisfies like honey, a sweetness on my tongue.
 It leads me to salvation's door where you have spread your table.
 O, lead me to your home.

Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

***In life and in death we belong to God.
 Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
 we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
 whom alone we worship and serve.
 In everlasting love,
 the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
 to bless all families of the earth.
 Hearing their cry,
 God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
 Loving us still,
 God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
 Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
 like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
 God is faithful still.***

A Minute for One Great Hour of Sharing
 Offering
 Offertory

Diana Pope-Albright

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

arr. John Behnke

Prayers of the People and 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.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 53

“O God, Who Gives Us Life and Breath”

- 1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.
- 2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
 to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
 when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
 refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

3 O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude "Lord Jesus, Think on Me" arr. J. Bert Carlson

This morning's prelude is based on a Gregorian Chant. The English translation for the Latin text is:

*Hearken, O Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against Thee.
Crying, we raise our eyes to Thee, Sovereign King, Redeemer of all.
Listen, Christ, to the pleas of the supplicant sinners.*

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children And Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Liturgist	Jay Clymer
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bell Choir	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck

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Blue Notes *for* Lent
an afternoon of jazz
Live on YouTube
Sunday, March 21 at 4:00 pm

Jazz Concert goes online, TODAY!

Join us for a third online concert, broadcast live from our sanctuary and offered as a gift to the community. Links will be on our website and Facebook page. You can also go to **www.YouTube.com** and search for **FPCCS Arts**.

Church Family Announcements

Thank you for joining us for our 10:00 Virtual Worship Service. We're happy you tuned in, hope that you will find our time together enriching, and look forward to the day we can worship together once again.

Have you had your shots?

A growing number of folks in our church family have received their vaccinations for covid-19. Bravo!

If you have received both shots and wish to return to the sanctuary for worship, we cordially invite you to contact our office and make a reservation. Because the corona virus continues to be contagious, we ask all who attend to wear masks, keep appropriate distances, and refrain from singing.

We look forward to the day when ALL of us can be back together. That day is coming. In the meantime, we will respect one another and do what is safe for all.

CAMP LACKAWANNA INFORMATION

Summer Camp 2021 Registration is open! Head on over to camp.lackawanna.org to see what programs are being offered this summer and to register your children for camp! Family Camp registration is also open!

Our church provides scholarships for all young people who want to go. Check with Jana Schillinger for details.

DATES	CAMP	AGE GROUP
June 24-27	Family Camp	All Ages
June 28-30	Mini Camp	Ages 6-10
July 4-10	Wet n' Wild	Ages 7-16
July 11-17	Music, Arts and Drama	Ages 7-16
July 11-24	JH/SR 2-week	Completed grades 6-11
July 18-24	Adventure Camp	Completed grades 6-10
July 25-31	Night Owls	Completed grades 3-10
August 1-7	Camp Olympics	Ages 7-16

Camp Lackawanna is actively seeking staff for Summer Camp. In addition to Counselors, a Cook is also needed. Applications can be filled out at www.camplackawanna.org

Study with us during Lent

Rev. Carter is leading a Bible study at 10 a.m. on the Wednesday mornings of Lent, the next date being Lesson 6 on March 24. It will be held live on Zoom, with a small group meeting simultaneously in Room 206 (Session Room). Would you like to be physically present? Contact the church office (586-6306) to make a reservation. Masks and safety rules apply! The study is "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament.

Our building is bustling -- one person at a time! Feel free to read a book or check out a DVD from our church library, pray or play the piano in the sanctuary, or have a free cup of coffee with the pastor (who will keep six feet away). No groups, please, but Masked Individuals are welcome in limited numbers whenever the building is open. **[Stir-Crazy People](#)** are especially invited.

The Presbyterian Woman's Association will be unable to host our Annual Spring Luncheon with guests from Clarks Summit State Hospital. However they are so appreciative of getting new socks when they come here that a Spring Gift of BRAND NEW socks will be collected (for both men and women) and taken to the residents. A box has been placed in the Narthex for your donations. Please call Janet Dobson (570-563-1887) with questions.