

The First Presbyterian Church

300 South Main Street

Greensburg, Pennsylvania

The Third Sunday of Easter – April 14, 2024 – 10 a.m.

Simulcast Service

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Sing Hallelujah, Praise the Lord

John Christian Bechler

Sing hallelujah, praise the Lord! Sing with a cheerful voice; exalt our God with one accord, and in his name rejoice. Ne'er cease to sing, O ransomed host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, until in realms of endless light your praises shall unite. There we to all eternity shall join th' angelic lays and sing in perfect harmony to God our Savior's praise; he has redeemed us by his blood, and made us kings and priests to God; for us, for us, the Lamb was slain! Praise ye the Lord! Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Call on the name of the Lord in praise;

Make known God's deeds among the nations!

Sing to God with joyful songs;

tell of God's wonderful deeds!

✠HYMN 268

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (Hymn 582)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalm 4

HANDBELL ANTHEM

God's Peace

C. J. Adams

SECOND READING

Acts 3:12-19

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum

✠HYMN 630

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADERS' HYMN

✠THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES' CREED (*unison*)

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER (*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 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.

OUR JOYFUL RESPONSE - TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Joy and Ellation

Cynthia Dobrinski

✠RESPONSE

Doxology (*hymnal p. 609*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

✠PRAYER OF DEDICATION

✠HYMN 295

Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

✠BENEDICTION

✠POSTLUDE

Tocatta from Symphony V

Charles-Marie Widor

Please feel free to exit the sanctuary during the playing of the postlude, letting the melody carry you out into the world to love and serve the Lord.

✠ *Those who are able to stand comfortably may do so*

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING:

Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor/Head of Staff; Dr. W. Jeffrey Jones, Minister of Music / Organist; Mrs. Sandy Beauregard, Lector; Chancel Choir; Kirk Ringers; Mr. Michael Pascarella, Video Technician.

Music for this morning's service has been made possible, in part, by Edgar and Joanne Highberger and by gifts to the Dr. Edgar S. Highberger Music Fund.

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FIRST NEWS: The News of FPC

PRAYER LIST: Jeret Baker, Nick Behun, Lisa Bulger, Art Caramella, Juan Carlos, George Chambers, Sandy Cole, Dan & Ginger Collier, Tracy Confer, Beverly Courtney, William Courtney, Edna Mary Cox, Kaitlyn Daniels, Diane Demorest, Lorelai Difonso, Bob Dittman, Karen Dubosky, Michael Felice, Richard Gracik, Heather H., Edgar and Joanne Highberger, Gretchen Highberger, Lucas James, Lee Jamison, Don Kemerer, Jennifer Kubit, Paige Lucas, Karen M., Marge Machesney, Kelsey Magness, George Maser, Joanne McIlhattan, Rick & Jan McNerny, Janet Metzela, Carmina Michelsen, Keenan Miller, Gretchen Nelson, John Noel, Dan P., Nancy Pallitta, Kathleen Piekut, Gerry Pricer, Jamie R., Colton Reid, Judy Rugh, Julia Saul, Barbara Sill and family, Christina Sinddorf, Nancy Skrot, Mary Smith, Bob & Nancy Stahl, Eileen Stefl, Molly Stienbiser, Crystal Stone, Scott Sucke, Isabelle Taylor, Lynda Turin, Linda & Tom Turin, Matthew J. Washil, Doug Wessling, Don Whipkey and Marsha Zoruba.

VISITING IN WORSHIP TODAY? If you are visiting in worship today or have been for a while, please sign the Visitor Card found in the pew racks and place in the offering plate or hand to an usher. We would love to be able to contact you and answer any questions you may have about FPC. Please take a moment to greet Dr. Ankrum at the end of the service; he would love to get to know you and welcome you to our faith community.

NURSERY OPEN DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL AND WORSHIP – Children, Birth – PreK : Drop off care is available Sunday mornings with Ms. Gali! Pack your child's drinks and snacks and drop them off for the fun! Gali is looking forward to meeting you and your children!

CHILDREN'S RESOURCE TOTES - First Presbyterian Church also provides a comfort room and age-appropriate worship resource totes for families with young children to use during the service. They are in the narthex, or by asking an usher for assistance.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SPONSORING A FELLOWSHIP HOUR? Provide 6 dozen baked goods **or** \$35 donation to cover the cost. Use the sign-up sheet on the Dining Room bulletin board. Your contributions and participation are greatly appreciated. Fellowship Hours are held usually on the first and third Sundays of every month in the Dining Room. Coffee is provided by the Millers of 19 Coffee. *The next Fellowship hour is April 21.*

FIRST FRIDAYS: NEWS & UPDATES: If you haven't been receiving our First Fridays: News & Updates, please call Kim at the church office (724-832-0150) to verify and/or update your correct email address.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: A DAILY DEVOTIONAL – By ten o'clock in the morning each day, Monday through Friday, Martin posts a new devotion for the day. Please join in the practice of daily devotion for such a time as this.



DO YOU WISH TO GIVE ONLINE? To set up your own recurring donations, either visit the church website or scan the QR code with your smart phone, or contact the church office for help. Your support of Christ's church in this place is greatly appreciated!



ADULT FORUM ON SUNDAY MORNING meets on **Sundays at 9 a.m.** in the PW Lounge on the first floor of the CE Wing. We are reading and discussing a wonderful book written by the late Rev. Peter Gomes: ***The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart.*** Gomes unpacks the scriptures for his reader, covering how the Bible is often misunderstood by Christians and others alike. The book helps to open up our hearts and minds to the profound words of scripture that give us comfort and challenges our faith as well.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 7:30 A.M.: This Bible study has many wonderful ingredients: warm fellowship, good friendships, open discussions, great breakfasts AND the opportunity to grow in faith together. We gather every Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. at Eat n' Park across from Westmoreland Mall. We are currently studying the book of Joshua.

THE LAST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB will meet **Tuesday, April 30 at 7 p.m.** in the PW Lounge on the first floor of the CE Wing. This year, all the stories will be taken from ***The World's Greatest Short Stories,*** Dover Thrift Edition. In April we will read and discuss the following: Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis – The Fortune-Teller; Luigi Pirandello – Mrs. Frola and Mr. Ponza, Her Son-in-Law; F. Scott Fitzgerald – Bernice Bobs Her Hair (can be accessed at [bernicebobs \(wsu.edu\)](http://www.wsu.edu/bernicebobs)) or obtain a copy from Martin.

THRU THE BIBLE CLASS will meet **Monday, April 29 at 7 p.m.** in the Assembly Room of the church building. We have been working our way through the Bible from cover to cover and will be discussing First & Second Timothy. The class lasts just an hour and is led by Dr. Ankrum. Please join us for a lively discussion!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER – WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

Everyone enjoyed the potluck luncheon sponsored by the Stewardship Committee. It was a great gathering of good food and good fellowship, but also a good time to consider the challenge of healthy stewardship. The participants were asked to consider what Jesus's words meant to them: 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' Here are a few responses:

In it for the long-haul.

Everything I have and am is a treasure from God. My heart belongs to God.

Prayers

What do Jesus' words mean to you?

NEW MEMBERS CLASS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY – Are you interested in joining our congregation? Please prayerfully consider your participation in the life of Christ's church and God's call upon your life. The Membership & Evangelism Committee will be offering a New Members Class today at 11:15 a.m. in the PW Lounge. (First floor of the CE Wing.) Those who wish to join the church will be received into membership during the worship service on Sunday, April 21.

THE CORNERSTONE GROUP INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM ... We will be dining at the First Wok, 321 West Main Street, Ligonier, on May 11, at 5:30 p.m. This is a Thai/Japanese restaurant that is superb. Please sign-up before April 9 by calling Sandy Beauregard (724-834-2247 or 724-331-3457) or emailing her (sandbeau1@verizon.net) to reserve your spot.

Splash in God's Word

VBS 2024 - June 10 – 14; 9 a.m. – Noon

Calling All Volunteers! Water you up to this summer? Do you like to stay current? Looking for a refreshing experience? Water you waiting for? Join in the floods of laughter! VBS is sure to make a big splash!

**If you are not there, you will be mist!
Sea you this summer!**

**Contact Wendy McCann to volunteer today.
Registration for super so-fish-ticated
child participants coming soon!**

THE WESTMORELAND CHORAL SOCIETY under the direction of Tom Octave concludes its series of "Love" concerts at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 5 in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary. The concert titled "Spirit of Love" will also feature the WCS Youth Choir. The program will include a broad range of choral styles found in such diverse pieces as 'Festival Sanctus' by John Leavitt, In Virtute Tua by Grzegori Gorczy, 'Sing a Mighty Song' by Daniel Gawthrop, and 'Go Down Moses' by Mark Hayes. Selections also include 'Inscription of Hope' by Randall Stroope and 'There is Peace' by Jim Papoulis, the latter of which will be performed with the WCS Youth Choir. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15 (Adults), \$10 (Seniors) and \$5 (Students).

THE MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE welcomes you to join them on **June 29 at 2:00 p.m. to see "The Color Purple" at the Benedum Center.** We have 14 tickets available and we will be offering a ride in the church van. After the theater performance, we will dine at The Juniper Grille in Murrysville. Tickets for the performance are \$70 each and include transportation. Dinner is on your own. Contact Sandy Beauregard (724-834-2247 or 724-331-3457) or email her (sandbeau1@verizon.net) to reserve your spot.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN UP sponsored by First Presbyterian Church will be on **Saturday, May 4.** The rain date is Saturday, May 11. We meet in the parking lot at Lynch Field across from the Dairy Queen on 119N at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers should be at least 14 years of age (volunteers under age 16 are asked to be accompanied by their parent/guardian). **The more help we get the quicker we will be done.** Please contact Joe Napsha at 724-454-3517 or jnapsha@tribweb.com to volunteer.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS @ FPC

FELLOWSHIP HOUR – APRIL 21 Please help host a coffee bar for this Fellowship Hour. We'll be in the Dining Room at 9:30 a.m. for set-up and remain afterwards to clean-up.

GAMES WITH RICK, Sunday, April 21 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the youth room. The city of Drakkenheim was devastated by a meteor. A mysterious, magical, mutation-causing haze blankets the buildings and alleyways. Five factions vie for control of the ruins. Our heroes must navigate monsters and intrigue to restore the city and save the kingdom.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING – Sunday, April 28, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Join us in the youth room for lunch, games and Vacation Bible School planning. Lunch will be provided.

Crown Him with Many Crowns 268

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down-ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

ADORATION

630

Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

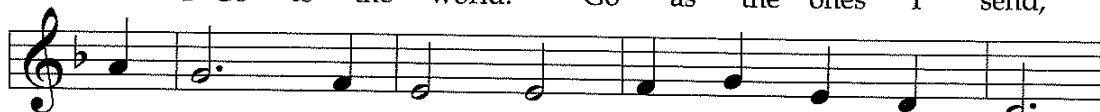
Franz Liszt used this melody for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but this hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

Go to the World!

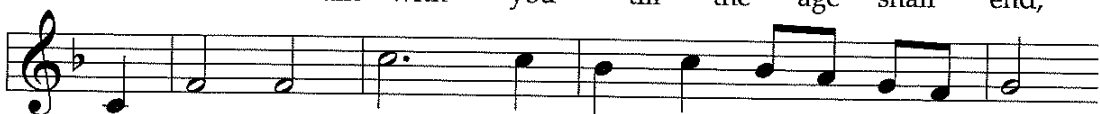
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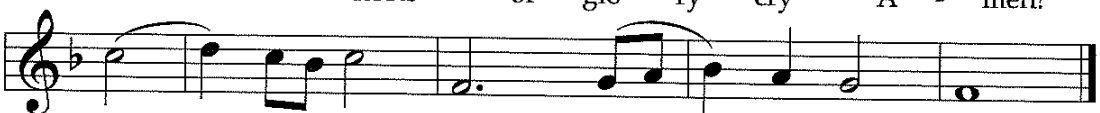
1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Based on Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:19-20), this text was written for a Convocation of Emmanuel College in Toronto, the largest theological school of the United Church of Canada, a denomination formed by the union of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.