



First Presbyterian Church

April 11, 2021 | 10:30 AM (EDT) | 2nd Sunday of Easter | Youth Sunday

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor
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Jane Livingston, Music Director
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**Indicates to stand if you are able*

GATHERING MUSIC: “Marvelous Light”

Jane Livingston

GREETING

Pastor Gregg Townsend

*** CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER**

Mr. Ben McAuley

Leader: When Jesus joined them, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

Together: Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah; some say Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

“But what about you?” Jesus asked. Who do you say I am?”

“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Let us worship our risen, living Savior!

Almighty and gracious God, it is a privilege to worship you this day in this community of saints. May our praise be joyful, may our hearts be turned toward you, and may our souls be quenched with the waters of your Word. We give you all glory and praise and gratitude this day and forever. Amen.

*** OPENING PRAISE:** “My Savior, My God”

I am not skilled to understand... what God has willed, what God has planned.

I only know at His right hand, stands One who is my Savior.

I take Him at His word and deed. Christ died to save me, this I read.

And in my heart, I find a need of Him to be my Savior.

That He would leave His place on high and come for sinful man to die.

You count it strange so once did I... before I knew my Savior.

**My Savior loves! My Savior lives! My Savior's always there for me!
My God He was! My God He is! My God is always gonna be!
My Savior loves! My Savior lives! My Savior's always there for me!
My God He was! My God He is! My God is always gonna be!**

Yes, living, dying let me bring. My strength, my solace from this spring.
That He who lives to be my King once died to be my Savior.
That He would leave His place on high and come for sinful man to die.
You count it strange so once did I... before I knew my Savior. **(Chorus)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together: Forgiving God, we give you thanks for your unconditional love and ask that you enable us to love each other unconditionally, too. Forgive us for not always answering when others ask, "Who do you say that I am?" Forgive us for ignoring those in our midst who are different from ourselves in age, race, education level, and economic status. Forgive us for the times we so easily conform to the language and actions of this world. Forgive us for taking the easy way out with texts, emails, or Facebook, instead of confronting each other face to face. Forgive us, God, and make us whole again. In the name of the One who came to save us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; our old lives are gone, and our new lives have already begun.

Together: We are all forgiven and at peace! Amen!

*** SONG OF THANKSGIVING: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"**

Lord, I lift your name on high. Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way. From the earth to the cross my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky, Lord, I lift your name on high. **(REPEAT SONG)**

INTRODUCTION OF TODAY'S PREACHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 11:25-30

Brooks Townsend

MESSAGE

*** RESPONDING IN SONG: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

What a friend we have in Jesus. All our sins and griefs to bear.
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.
O what peace we often forfeit. O what needless pain we bear.
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful? Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness. Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden? Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior still our refuge. Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee. Thou wilt find a solace there.

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

*** CLOSING SONG:** "Because He Lives"

God sent His Son they called Him Jesus. He came to love heal and forgive.
He bled and died to buy my pardon. An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future. And life is worth the living just because He lives.**

How sweet to hold our newborn baby and feel the pride and joy he gives.
But greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because Christ lives. **(Chorus)**

And then one day I'll cross that river. I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then as death gives way to vict'ry, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns. **(Chorus)**

*** BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE**

Leader: Now may you go from this place in peace,
Together: For we are all new creations in Christ.

May you go from this place in joy,
For we are free to serve the kingdom of God and not conform to the world.

May you go from this place in love,
For nothing we have done or will ever do will ever separate us from the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Go out and serve God's people with energy and imagination! Amen.

*** * * * * Please share today's worship service on your Facebook page. * * * * ***

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OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

There are five easy ways to give your financial gift to the church:

1. For in-person worshippers, place your envelopes in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Send in your financial support via the **USPS to 25 West Main Street, North East PA 16428.**
3. Contact the church office (814-725-8641) to set up **direct deposit** from your bank account to the church.
4. You can also now give through **PayPal**. Just click on the link: paypal.me/fpcne. Or click on the “Shop Now” button on the church Facebook page, which will take you to the link.
5. Download the “**Give Plus† Mobile**” app from the App Store. Enter our zip code (16428) and select “First Presbyterian Church.” It takes about five minutes to set up your account and connect with the church. Then simply select the ‘+’ sign at the top to add your giving.

CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY WE WELCOME BROOKS TOWNSEND TO OUR PULPIT to offer today’s message. Brooks is a Senior at North East High School and plans to attend Calvin University in the fall to study Business and Philosophy.

FPCNE IS PLEASED TO WELCOME BEN MCAULEY TO OUR CHURCH STAFF as our new Director of Christian Education. Ben will oversee our children and youth ministry. Ben graduated from Waynesburg University with a degree in Secondary Education and Mathematics. He is currently an assistant Pre-k teacher at Early Connections North East. He also coaches sixth grade cross country and middle school track. In his free time, Ben enjoys sports (both as a participant and spectator) and likes to stay active! Welcome to the FPCNE staff, Ben!

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY IN-PERSON OR ONLINE VIA FACEBOOK LIVE! We will continue to follow the CDC recommendations, including a paperless service, social distancing and wearing face masks.

IT’S TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THE NORTH EAST MEN’S CHRISTIAN SOFTBALL LEAGUE. We will be combining with the Park United Methodists to form a team. Please contact Cody Regan at ctregan31@gmail.com to join the team or for more info.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER & DEVOTION is on spring break for two weeks and will be back on Wednesday, April 21 7:00 PM (EDT) via Facebook LIVE.

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, JOY OR CONCERN TO SHARE, please speak with Pastor Gregg or call or text his cell phone at (814) 460-3123. You can also email our prayer chain at jlivingston@neo.rr.com.

CONTACT INFO YOU MIGHT NEED

- Contact Pastor Gregg anytime at (814) 460-3123 (call or text) and pastortownsend@yahoo.com.
- Contact music director Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135 (call or text) and jlivingston@neo.rr.com.
- Please send announcements or calendar events to Jane.