



# First Presbyterian Church

February 28, 2021 | 10:30 AM (EST) | Second Sunday in Lent

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor  
Pastor Gregg: (814) 460-3123  
Email: [pastortownsend@yahoo.com](mailto:pastortownsend@yahoo.com)

Jane Livingston, Music Director  
Church Phone: (814) 725-8641  
Web: [FPCNE.ORG](http://FPCNE.ORG)

*\*Indicates to stand if you are able*

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:** “The Cross Is My Confession”

**GREETING:** Pastor Gregg Townsend

## \* OPENING PRAYER, CALL TO WORSHIP, AND INVOCATION

Leader: Holy and loving God, as we worship you today, we long for your Spirit to both comfort and challenge us, to help us become more holy and more loving. In a world that does not understand repentance, we pray for new understanding, humility, patience, and discipline that will help us die to sin and live for Jesus.

**Together: Amen.**

Let us worship God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.

**We are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!**

Let us worship God as Christ’s ambassadors.

**Through us and through our worship may we announce the good news to all.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Praise God! We are reconciled, redeemed, renewed!**

—based on John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

From Bethlehem to Nazareth, from Jordan to Jericho, from Bethany to Jerusalem, from then to now,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

To heal the sick, to mend the brokenhearted, to comfort the disturbed, to disturb the comfortable,  
to cleanse the temple, to liberate faith from convention,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

To carry the cross, to lead the way, to shoulder the sin of the world and take it away,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

Today, to this place, to us,  
**come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

\* **OPENING PRAISE:** “What Wondrous Love Is This” (Wondrous Love)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul. What wondrous love is this, O my soul.  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss.  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul. To bear the heavy cross for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down. When I was sinking down, sinking down.  
When I was sinking down beneath God’s righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown.  
For my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside, His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb, who is the Great I Am.  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing. While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on. And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.  
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be.  
And through eternity, I’ll sing on I’ll sing on. And through eternity, I’ll sing on.

**CALL TO CONFESSION:** “Take, O Take Me as I Am”

*Sung:* Take, O take me as I am. Summon out what I shall be.  
Set Your seal upon my heart and live in me. **(REPEAT)**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of mercy, whose Son, Jesus Christ, longs to gather us in the wide embrace of his love, we confess that we have been wayward children. We have disobeyed your commands; our ears have been deaf to your call; our hearts have been cold to your love. In thought, in word, and in deed we have hurt others and dishonored your name.**

**In your great mercy receive us yet again as your well-beloved children, not because we are worthy but for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.**

*Sung:* Take, O take me as I am. Summon out what I shall be.  
Set Your seal upon my heart and live in me.

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Titus 1:5-16

**MESSAGE:** “In the Hope of Eternal Life: God’s Leaders”

**\* RESPONDING IN SONG: “Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me”**

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom. My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus for my life is wholly bound to his.  
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing all is mine. Yet not I but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken for by my side the Savior he will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing for in my need his power is displayed.  
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me through the deepest valley, he will lead.  
Oh, the night has been won and I shall overcome. Yet not I but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven. The future sure, the price it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and he was raised to overthrow the grave.  
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated. Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh, the chains are released. I can sing: I am free. Yet not I but through Christ in me.

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus for he has said that he will bring me home.  
And day by day, I know he will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to him.  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat. Yet not I but through Christ in me.

**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: “What a Savior”**

Atoning sacrifice, Keeper of this life. Hallelujah! You are Savior!  
Beginning and the end, Forgiver of my sin. By Your mercy, You have saved us.

**Jesus, You are stronger, more than any other. Hallelujah! What a Savior!**  
**Jesus, You are higher, my soul's deepest desire. Hallelujah! You are Savior!**

You are the shepherd King. You lead us by still waters. Hallelujah! You are Savior!  
You are my only hope. Your kindness is my friend. In Your presence, You restore us. **(Chorus)**

You are the way, the truth and the life. You are my joy and my salvation.  
Stood in my place, taking my shame upon Your shoulders. **(Chorus)**

**\* BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE**

**\*\*\*\*\* 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](https://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

**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. Please check your email or our Facebook page for any updates.

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are given by the Connors family in honor and celebration of Ava Connors' second birthday on February 27. Happy birthday, Ava!

**WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER & DEVOTION** is held on Facebook LIVE each week at 7:00 PM (EST).

**PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY IS HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 PM (EST) VIA ZOOM.** Everyone is invited. Check the church Facebook page for a Zoom link or contact Pastor Gregg.

**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](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com).

### CONTACT INFO YOU MIGHT NEED

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