

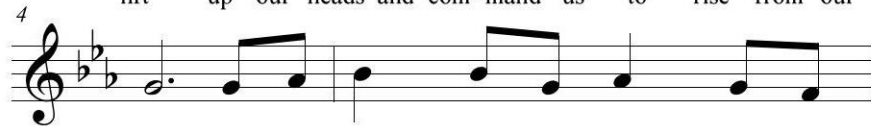
## Kind and Merciful God



1. Kind and mer - ci - ful God we have  
 2. Kind and mer - ci - ful God, we've ne -  
 3. Kind and mer - ci - ful God, we have  
 4. Kind and mer - ci - ful God, in Christ's  
 5. Kind and mer - ci - ful God, bid us



sinned in your sight, we have all wan-dered far from your  
 glect - ed your Word and the truth that would guide us a -  
 bro - ken your laws and in con-duct have veered from the  
 death on the cross you pro - vid - ed a cleans - ing from  
 lift up our heads and com-mand us to rise from our



way; we have fol - lowed de - sire, we have  
 right; we have lived in the shade of the  
 norm; we have dreamed of the good but the  
 sin; speak the words that for - give, that hence -  
 knees; may our hearts now be changed and no



failed to as - pire to the  
 dark we have made, when you  
 good that we could live by the  
 forth we may live through the  
 long - er es - tranged,



vir - tue we ought to dis - play.  
 willed us to walk in the light.  
 fre - quent - ly failed to per - form.  
 might of your Spir - it with - in.  
 pow'r of your par - don and peace.

# DEVOTION

DEVOTION TO GODLINESS

DEVOTION TO SCRIPTURE

DEVOTION TO SERVING

DEVOTION TO FAMILY

DEVOTION TO LEADERSHIP

# LENT

DEVOTION TO GODLINESS

DEVOTION TO SCRIPTURE

DEVOTION TO SERVING

DEVOTION TO FAMILY

DEVOTION TO LEADERSHIP

# DEVOTION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

25 West Main Street | North East, PA 16428

(814) 725-8641 | [FPCNE.ORG](http://FPCNE.ORG) | Follow us on Facebook

## WELCOME



**WELCOME TO ALL.** You enter this church not as a stranger, but as a child of God, joining in worship with our Christian family. Please take a moment to complete a Visitor/Guest Card, located in the pew racks, and place it in the collection plate during the time of Offering. We are glad you joined us today.

**TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**, please turn off or silence cell phones, tablets, and all other wireless electronic devices upon entering the sanctuary.

**FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN:** Nursery care is available for infants and young children through pre-K. An usher will be happy to direct you to the Nursery-Crib Room. Sunday School is available for grade school ages following the Children's Blessing.

**ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED** is available. Please contact a member of the media team to use the assisted listening devices.

**RESTROOMS** are located across from the office area and down the hallway in the Christian Education wing.

**PARKING IS AVAILABLE** in the designated church parking spaces on the south and east side of the church, as well as street parking. The municipal building parking lot west of the church is also available on nights and Sunday mornings.

**TODAY'S LITURGICAL COLOR IS PURPLE**, which is used during the penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn Christ endured and the sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL** is held on Facebook LIVE on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM (ET). Please contact Pastor Gregg directly to share any prayer requests.

### 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).

## CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORMS ARE DUE TODAY.** Pick up a form at the back of the sanctuary, complete and give to Jane Livingston. See the form for instructions.

**IT'S FPCNE'S MONTH TO HELP AT THE NORTH EAST FOOD PANTRY** from March 31 and through the end of April. Sign-up sheets are in the Assembly Room.

**PLEASE SIGN UP TO HOST COFFEE HOUR.** All you need to do is make the coffee and drinks, set out the necessary supplies and host.

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** were given by Steve and Beth Seymour in honor of Brittany Joseph's birthday.

**JOIN OUR E-PRAYER CHAIN.** Speak with Pastor Gregg or email Jane Livingston at [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com) to be added. It's wonderful to lift up prayers for our church members, friends, and family.

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**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS** by Wednesdays. Please email Pastor Gregg or Jane.

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## OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

1. Place your envelopes in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Send in your financial support via the USPS.
3. Contact the church office (814-725-8641) to set up direct deposit.
4. Give through PayPal at [paypal.me/fpcne](https://paypal.me/fpcne). Or scan the QR code with your phone camera to go right to the church's Paypal account. (There is a one-time set-up required via your Paypal account to enable the QR code.)



## SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

### \* 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)**

### \* OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

### \* BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

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**THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** following worship **TODAY** for the purpose of electing an Elder.

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## First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA  
March 26, 2023, 10:30 A.M.  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music  
Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor

*\*Indicates to stand if you are able*

*SHARING OUR JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS. Please fill out one of the Prayer Cards located in the pew racks to share your joys, concerns, and prayer requests with your church family. The ushers will collect them during the first hymn.*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### GATHERING MUSIC

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Pastor Gregg Townsend

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP** Leila Shields

Leader: The day of the Lord is coming! The day of the Lord is near!  
**Together: The time is fulfilled! The reign of God is at hand!**  
O people, repent! Believe in the gospel!  
**Come, let us turn and follow the Lord!**

\* **OPENING PRAISE** “Draw Me to the Cross”

Draw me to the cross, there I will meet you.  
Ransomed Son of Man, you who came to serve.  
Paying all the price I’ve been set free.  
My Lord, my Lord, what have you done for me?

Draw me to the cross, there I will meet you.  
Powerless and ungodly though I was.  
Even still you died on my behalf.  
Now I’m justified, safe from God’s wrath.

**Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
To the cross where Thou hast died.  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord...  
To Thy precious bleeding side.**

Draw me to the cross, there I will meet you.  
Caught in sin's grip, enemy of yours.  
You came seeking, reconciling me.  
Saved and now a friend, wrapped within your love. **(Chorus)**

Draw me to the cross, there I will meet you.  
I fear no one who would condemn me.  
There is no pow'r so great as yours.  
The cross, a sure sign of your victory. **(Chorus)**

#### **INVOCATION**

**Lord God, we gather in this place not because we are deserving of your love and not because we have lived faithfully before your face. We gather here because you have called us. You loved us before we could love you. You have given your Son for our salvation. For this we join all creation in blessing you, praising you, thanking you. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! You are great, and greatly to be praised. As we offer our praise, we long for you to mold us in the image of your Son, whose death and resurrection give us hope. Through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** “Kind and Merciful God” See back

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you, says the Lord.  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

—from Isaiah 49:15; 66:12-13, NRSV

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

### **CHILDREN'S BLESSING**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

I Timothy 5:17-25

#### **MESSAGE**

“Devotion to Leadership”

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\* RESPONDING IN SONG** “Just As I Am (I Come Broken)”

Just as I am without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee.  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot.  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**I come broken to be mended.  
I come wounded to be healed.  
I come desperate to be rescued.  
I come empty to be filled.  
I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb.  
And I'm welcomed with open arms,  
Praise God, just as I am.**

Just as I am, I would be lost, but mercy and grace my freedom bought.  
And now to glory in Your cross, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
**(Chorus)**

Praise God just as I am. Praise God just as I am.

#### **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.**