



First Presbyterian Church

September 12, 2021 | 10:30 AM (ET) | Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Jane Livingston, Music Director
Web: FPCNE.ORG
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of North East

**Indicates to stand if you are able*

GATHERING MUSIC: “Wonderful, Merciful Savior”

GREETING

Pastor Gregg Townsend

HONORING OUR GRANDPARENTS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER**

Leader: Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty.

Together: Just and true are your ways, King of the nations.

Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name?

For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you.

—Revelation 15:3-4, NIV

Praise the Lord.

The Lord’s name be praised.

Great God, you have been generous and marvelously kind.

Give us such wonder, love, and gratitude that we may sing praises to you and joyfully honor your name through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*** OPENING PRAISE:** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord the Almighty, the King of creation.

O my soul praise Him for He is thy health and salvation.

All ye who hear now to His temple draw near. Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth.

Shelters thee under His wings, yes so gently sustaineth.

Hast thou not seen how all thy longings hath been. Granted in what He ordaineth.

Praise to the Lord who doth prosper Thy work and defend thee.
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do. If with His love, He befriend thee.

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!**

Praise to the Lord O let all that is in me adore Him.
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before Him.
Let the amen sound from His people again. Gladly forever adore Him.

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Often, O holy and righteous God, we dare your justice, mock your mercy, jeer your patience, slight your power, and show contempt for your love. We even say “I’m sorry” insincerely and confess our sin flippantly. We plead your help to own up carefully to how we have wronged you, to admit honestly how we have grieved you, to plead penitently for your mercy and pardon. We beg your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

—based on a prayer by John Bunyan (1628-88)

LAMENT: “Jesus the Very Thought of Thee” (Saint Agnes)

Jesus the very thought of Thee with sweetness fills my breast.
But sweeter far Thy face to see and in Thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame. Nor can the mind recall:
A sweeter sound than Thy blest name. O Savior of us all.

O Hope of every contrite heart. O Joy of all the meek.
To those who fall, how kind Thou art. How good to those who seek.

Jesus, our only joy be Thou as Thou our prize wilt be.
Jesus be Thou our Glory now and thru eternity.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

—Psalm 103:8-13, NRSV

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 19:28-48

MESSAGE

RESPONDING IN SONG: “Wonderful, Merciful Savior”

Wonderful, merciful Savior, Precious, Redeemer and Friend.
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men? O You rescue the souls of men.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace.
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way. O, we hopelessly lost the way.

You are the One that we praise! You are the One we adore!
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for, Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us Falling before Your throne. O we’re falling before Your throne. **(Chorus)**

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**

All Music Used with Permission | Church Copyright License #1496394 | + Streaming License #20537695

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” CCLI Song #4045795 Catherine Winkworth | Joachim Neander | Travis Cottrell © 2002 Word Music, LLC (a div. of Word Music Group, Inc.) and Public Domain | “Jesus the Very Thought of Thee” (Saint Agnes) CCLI Song # 35751 Bernard of Clairvaux | Edward Caswall | John Bacchus Dykes © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain | “Wonderful, Merciful Savior” CCLI Song #106879 Dawn Rodgers | Eric Wyse © 1989 Word Music, LLC/Dayspring Music, LLC (a div. of Word Music Group, Inc.)(a div. of Word Music Group, Inc.) | “What a Savior” CCLI Song # 5646760 Jeremiah Jones © 2009 Fair Trade Global Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

JOIN US FOR A POTLUCK LUNCHEON TODAY immediately following the worship service, downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Rolls, dessert and drinks will be provided. Forgot to bring a dish to share? No problem. Join us anyway!

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 or text Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135.

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

THE ROSE ON THE CHANCEL THIS MORNING is in honor of Madelyn Kate Rodkey. Madelyn is the daughter of Sara and James Rodkey. She was born on August 30, 2021 and is the newest addition to our church family. Congratulations to Sara and James.

BEAUTIFY OUR CHANCEL WITH FLOWERS. Please speak with Jane if you can help to provide flowers for our chancel in the coming weeks.

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR AV TEAM. We’d like to set up multiple cameras for our online worship service, which will allow us to put our sanctuary back into its normal set-up. But we need a few more folks to help manage the sound and AV equipment. The only skill you need is the ability to pay attention! Otherwise, Jane will provide training and sets up each week. Please speak with Jane Livingston for more info.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

WE WILL BE STARTING UP OUR CHANCEL AND BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS ON SEPTEMBER 16. We need both men and women, both singers and ringers! We welcome our youth from grade 8 and up to join as well. Singing or ringing in choir is really a lot of fun, doesn’t require a big-time commitment and is a great way to serve the church. Speak with Jane Livingston for more info.

- **BELL CHOIR PRACTICE** will begin on Thursday, September 16 at 6:00 PM
- **CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE** will begin on Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 PM.

WE’D LOVE TO REBUILD OUR WORSHIP BAND. Do you play guitar, bass, or drums? Or know anyone who does? Or maybe you like to sing modern worship songs? Speak with Jane Livingston for more info. Worship team typically practices on Sunday mornings so there is not a lot of extra time commitment.

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.**