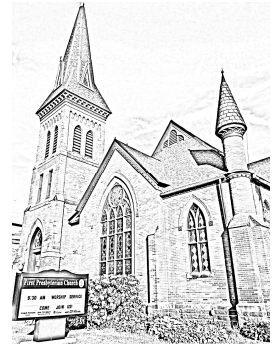


First Presbyterian Church of North East PA

March 29, 2020, 10:30 A.M. | Fifth Sunday in Lent
Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor | Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP: “The Power of Your Love”

GREETING: Pastor Gregg Townsend

OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: 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. Amen.

Unison: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. Let us consider him who endured such opposition from sinful people, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

—from Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

OPENING PRAISE: “In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid ground; firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace; when fears are stilled when strivings cease
My comforter my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh fullness of God in helpless Babe
This gift of love and righteousness; scorned by the ones He came to save
‘Til on that cross as Jesus died; the wrath of God was satisfied
For ev’ry sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death, this is the pow’r of Christ in me
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny
No pow’r of hell no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand
‘Til He returns or calls me home here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence, trusting that God will forgive our sin and cleanse us from every kind of wrong. Let us confess our sins to almighty God.

—based on Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 1:8

Unison: Most merciful God whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we confess before you our own sinfulness; we have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us.

Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we, free from sins, might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.

—from 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24, NRSV

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Brokenness Aside”

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 6:12-19

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Unison: Through God's Word, O Holy Spirit, bring us closer to our Savior. And in response, triune God, prompt our hearts to offer you sincere thanks for our salvation. In the strong name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

MESSAGE

RESPONDING IN SONG: “Merciful Savior”

Take my sin and wash me clean, Merciful Savior.
As I am without one plea, Merciful Savior.
That Thy blood was shed for Me, so unworthy though I be,
Lamb of God, I come to Thee, Merciful Savior.

Broken, tossed about; conflict, full of doubt; fighting fears within, without
Lord, the price you paid for our sin and shame; messy people, lost... seeking grace.

Take our sin and wash us clean, Merciful Savior.
Through our darkness, Lord you lead, Merciful Savior.
In our weakness, we confess, hear our cry and give us rest
Our redeemer, righteousness, Merciful Savior.
Our redeemer, righteousness, Merciful Savior.

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PASTORAL PRAYER AND OFFERING

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: “Cornerstone”

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly trust in Jesus’ name. **(REPEAT)**

**Christ alone cornerstone; weak made strong in the Savior’s love
Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all**

When darkness seems to hide His face; I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale; my anchor holds within the veil, my anchor holds within the veil.
(CHORUS)

When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless stand before the throne.

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BENEDICTION

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OFFLINE: OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

There are three easy ways to give your financial gift to the church during this time:

1. Send in your financial support via the **US mail**.
2. Contact the church office to set up **direct deposit** from your bank account to the church.
3. 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.

THANK YOU TO ABBY HAKEL-GARCIA AND CINDY CARLSON for helping to lead the music for today’s service.

Merciful Savior

Take my sin and wash me clean, Mer-ci-ful Sa-vior; As I am with - out one
 Take our sins and wash us clean, Mer-ci-ful Sa-vior; Through our dark-ness, Lord you

4
 plea, Mer-ci-ful Sa - vior. That Thy blood was shed for me, so un - worth - y though I
 lead, Mer-ci-ful Sa - vior. In our weak-ness, we con - fess. Hear our cry, and give us

7
 be, Lamb of God I come to Thee, Mer-ci - ful Sa - vior.
 10 rest. Our re - deem - er, right - eous - ness, Mer-ci - ful Sa - vior.

13 Brok - en, tossed a - bout; con - flict, full of doubt; fight - ing fears with - in,
 16 with-out. Lord, the price you paid, for our sin and shame,
 mess - y peo - ple, lost, seek - ing grace.

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 Add'l lyrics by Jane Livingston.