

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

January 31, 2021

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

"Thaxted"

arr. John A. Behnke

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart

in the company of the congregation.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, ever mindful of the covenant.

The works of God's hands are faithful and just, established forever and ever.

Hymn 305

"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy "

1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!

Refrain: In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream! **(Refrain)**

3 Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,
as we in mission magnify the Crucified! **(Refrain)**

4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long! **(Refrain)**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O Lord our God,

you call us to proclaim the gospel,

but we remain silent in the presence of evil.

You call us to be reconciled to you and one another,

but we are content to live in separation.

You call us to seek the good of all,

but we fail to resist the powers of oppression.

You call us to fight pretensions and injustice,

but we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people far and near.

Forgive us, O Lord.

Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit,

and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others;

through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Psalter: Psalm 111 (Hymnal 652)

- 1 A grateful heart is what I bring, a song of praise, my offering.
Among the saints I lift my voice: in you, O God, I will rejoice.
- 2 Your name is known in all the lands. You feed the poor with gentle hands.
Your word is true, your works are just; in you, O God, the faithful trust.
- 3 With saving love you set us free, and still you dwell in mystery
with wisdom none can comprehend. Your praise, O God, will never end.

A Time with Children

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 316

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

- 1 Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
- 2 Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son.
As members of each body joined, in him we are made one.
- 3 Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.
- 4 Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.
- 5 Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

Offertory

"Arioso"

Robert Powell

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 308

"O God in Whom All Life Begins"

- 1 O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,
bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;
deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.
- 2 Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts.
So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your Name
that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.
- 3 Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care;
so bind us in community that we may risk and dare.

Be with us when we gather here to worship, sing, and pray;
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“Trumpet Tune”

Robert C. Lau

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher	Rev. William G. Carter
Liturgist	Jan Thyren
Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck

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Where do we get our Covid-19 Vaccines?

That is the big question these days. Our Deacons discussed this at their last meeting. They will continue to monitor the vaccination sites and help us get the word out to our congregation. In the meantime, the Deacons invite you to visit this information site:
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>

Church Family Announcements

The Annual Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit has been called for **February 7, 2021**. As provided by our bylaws, it will be held online **on ZOOM immediately following worship** (around 11:00 a.m.). A link will be available on our FPCCS website in the days before the meeting. The reports will be e-mailed to those on our e-mail list on Wednesday, February 3.

For those who have no access to the internet, we will gladly send you a printed packet of all reports, as well as a ballot to act upon all proposed motions. Contact our office to request it. We would kindly ask that all ballots be returned to the church office by 4:00 pm on Monday, February 8.

Sunday coffee hour after worship, virtual edition, is back. Join us on ZOOM following Sunday's service.

Wednesday evening Bible study continues on February 3, at 7:00 pm. Join in as Rev. Carter presents "*Wintering in Corinth*", to coincide with his winter sermon series. [Join with Zoom](#)

CAMP LACKAWANNA INFORMATION

Summer Camp 2021 Registration is open! Head on over to camplackawanna.org to see what programs we are offering this summer and sign your children up for camp! Family Camp registration is also open! If you have any questions please email camplackwanna.director@gmail.com.

DATES	CAMP	AGE GROUP
June 24-27	Family Camp	All Ages
June 28-30	Mini Camp	Ages 6-10
July 4-10	Wet n' Wild	Ages 7-16
July 11-17	Music, Arts and Drama	Ages 7-16
July 11-24	JH/SR 2-week	Completed grades 6-11
July 18-24	Adventure Camp	Completed grades 6-10
July 25-31	Night Owls	Completed grades 3-10
August 1-7	Camp Olympics	Ages 7-16

- **Our building is bustling -- one person at a time!** Feel free to read a book or check out a DVD from our church library, pray or play the piano in the sanctuary, or have a free cup of coffee with the pastor (who will keep six feet away). No groups, please, but Masked Individuals are welcome in limited numbers whenever the building is open. [Stir-Crazy People](#) are especially invited.

What's coming in the near future

- Super Bowl Sunday is February 7. So is [Souper Bowl Sunday](#). We invite you to make a donation to the Abington Ecumenical food party. You send checks made out to the church (marked for "Food Pantry") or [donate online](#).
- [Camp Lackawanna](#) is open for summer registrations, and our church provides scholarships for all kids who want to go. Mykela Bricka, our new camp director, will take part in our February 14 worship service and tell us about the new developments at our church camp
- February 14 will be **Mardi Gras Sunday** with New Orleans music in our live-streamed worship service. The brilliant bassist Tony Marino will be our musical guest.

Valentines from Vienna

A live-streamed concert of chamber music on February 14 at 4:00 pm



During the pandemic, Rev. Carter has acquired a grant to provide a series of three **online concerts of uplifting music** for the public. The next concert is called, "**Valentines from Vienna: An Afternoon of Chamber Music.**" Scheduled to be broadcast live from the sanctuary on **February 14 at 4:00 p.m.**, it will feature Dr. Katie Morell's chamber group performing Beethoven's "[Gassenhauer](#)" Trio in Bb and Zemlinsky's [Trio in D minor](#).