

February 22, 2026



**First Presbyterian
Church**
of Pittsburgh

WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45 am

**Please stand as you are able*

Prelude: “O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”
Organ setting by Anna Laura Page

Alaine Fink
Organ

Time of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Craig M. Walls
Senior Pastor

Gathering Before the Word

***Responsive Call to Worship**
(Genesis 3, Psalm 32, Romans 5)

Emilie Delo
Liturgist

Leader: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice.

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

Leader: When we confess our transgressions, Christ’s grace and forgiveness encompass us.

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

Leader: Open yourselves to the teachings and wisdom of the Spirit.

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

***Hymn #65:** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” (*located in this bulletin*)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

We lift up our voices and cry out to you oh Lord of mercy. We pray for your forgiveness and confess that we do not always abide in your will. We ask for your forgiveness in all areas of our lives that we may be humble before you and abide in your love. We petition you dear Lord for our flesh is weak and acknowledge that you alone are able to transform us anew. Lord, please forgive all of our transgressions and help us to turn away from them. We are grateful for your promise to forgive and remember our sins no more. We thank you, dear God, for your mercy endures forever. *Amen.*

Time of Silent Prayer and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Sacrament of Baptism

***Hymn #488:** *"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"* verse 1 (located in this bulletin)

William Jenson Baric

Son of James Thomas Baric and Natalie Marie Baric

***Hymn #488:** *"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"* verse 2 (located in this bulletin)

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading: Luke 23: 39-43

Emilie Delo

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem: *"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"*

Arr. James D. Cram

Jim Heinrich, *soloist*

Alaine Fink, *piano*

*Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love, and pow'r.*

*Chorus:
I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.*

*Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.*

*Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry 'til you're better,
You will never come at all.*

*Let not conscience make you linger,
Nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him. [Chorus]*

Sermon:

“Today you will be with Me in Paradise”

Rev. Walls

Responding to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith – The 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 Spirit, 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 sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Call for the Offering (*Online giving available, scan code on back*)

Offertory: “I’m Goin’ Home”
Myrna White

Sherry Rusiski, *soloist*

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #216:** “*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*” (*located in this bulletin*)

***Invitation and Charge**

***Benediction**

Postlude: “*Thanks be to God*”
Arr. Robert J. Powell

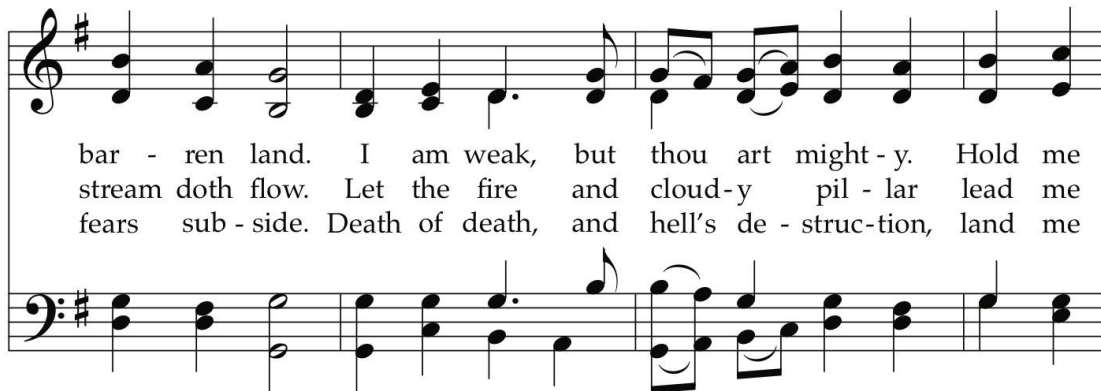
Alaine Fink, *organ*



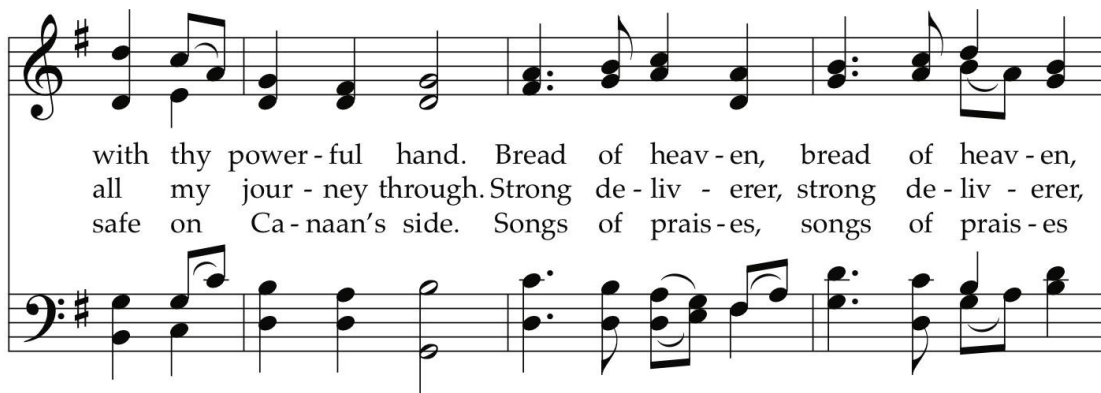
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

488 I Was There to Hear Your Born-ing Cry



1 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when
 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was there to
 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no



you are old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord to
 lon - ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com -



see your life un - fold. I was there when you were but a
 whom you now be - long. If you find some - one to share your
 plete what I've be - gun. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es



child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to
 in and you shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as



light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."
 make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I have al - ways been with just one more sur - prise."



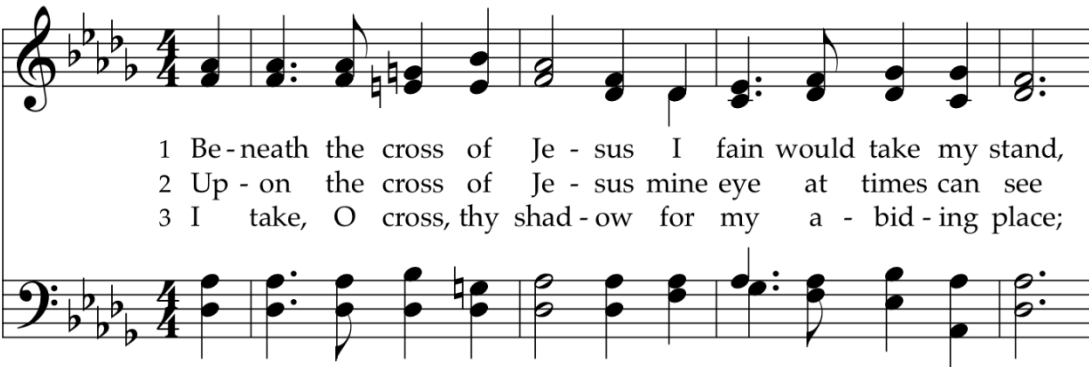
4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.



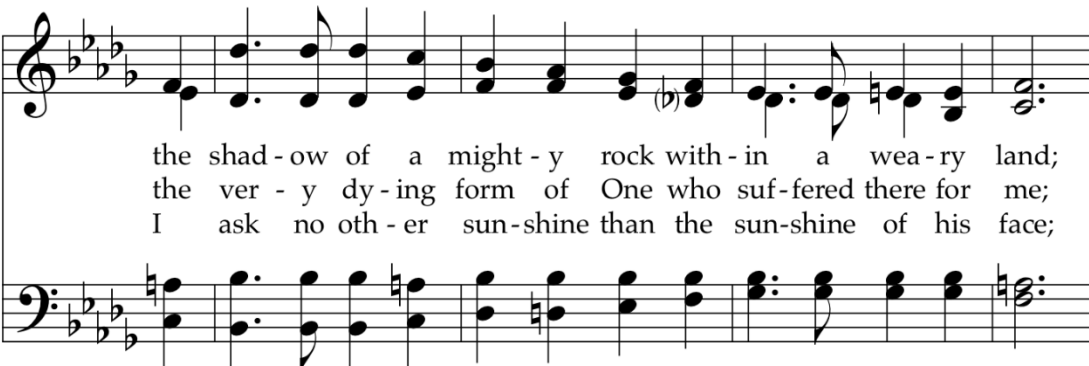
I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

Originally created to accompany a video series on baptism, this hymn speaks in the imagined conversational voice of God, assuring the person being baptized of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life. It offers a reminder that baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

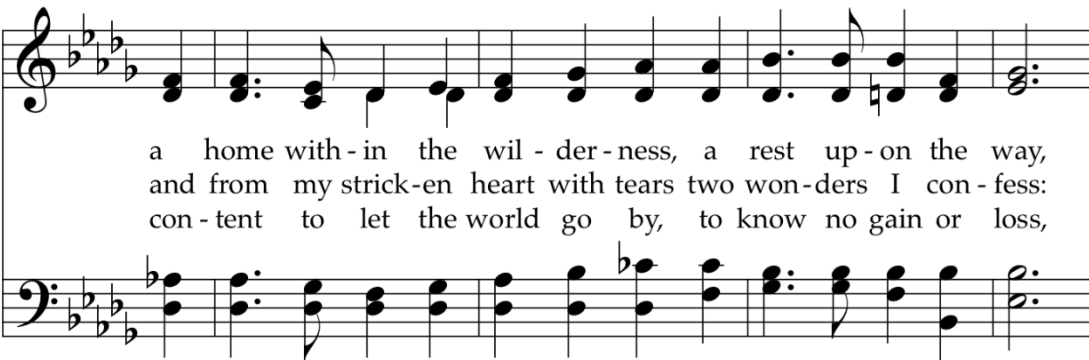
216 Beneath the Cross of Jesus



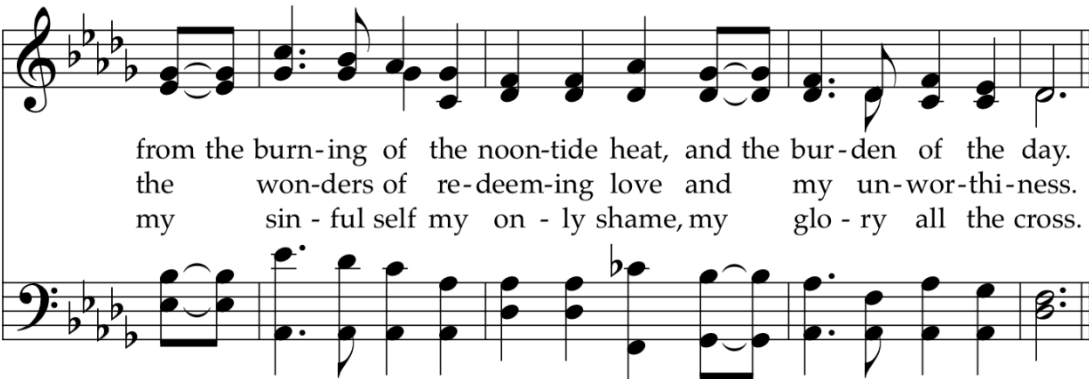
1 Be-neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, thy shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
 the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

For sheer intensity of feeling few hymns can match this meditation on the cross; impressive images and strong contrasts combine to give the text its ardor. The passionate language is augmented by the highly chromatic tune later composed for these words.

Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

Hospitality Hour

Join us after worship this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the chapel. If you're visiting with us, we would especially like to get to know you!

Sunday School

The Cornerstone Class continues to explore the early Church through a study of the **Book of Acts**.

The class meets from **9:30 - 10:30 a.m.** in **Room #17** (chapel area, next to the stage). If you'd like to join them for fellowship and learning, please contact **Charlie Claudon** at **412-400-4868**. Children's Sunday School also continues in Room 4 downstairs. All children are invited.

Nominations Request

The 2026 Nominating Committee invites members of FPCP to propose candidates for vacant Officer positions. Nominating forms and a secure drop box can be found in the chapel.

Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on **April 12th** following the worship service.

Can You Help with Our Lenten Services?

We will be having two services before Easter for which we will need volunteer help in the form of greeters and ushers.

- 1) **Maundy Thursday - April 2 – 7:00 pm** This will be both a communion service and a Tenebrae.
- 2) **Good Friday - April 3 – Noon – Service followed by a City-wide Prayer Walk.**

If you are able and willing to help at any of these services, please contact *Carly Black* at the church office at **cblack@fpcp.org**.

Thanks in advance for helping us make this Lenten season special for our church family and visitors.

Easter Flowers

This Easter, our sanctuary will be decorated with beautiful white lilies and mixed-color tulips, available for purchase at \$15 each. A portion of the proceeds will support a floral arrangement for the lower pulpit. Donors and the individuals honored or memorialized will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Order deadline: Friday, March 27

To place an order, contact **Carly** at **412-471-3436** or **cblack@fpcp.org**. If ordering by email, please include:

- The quantity and type of plant(s)
- The wording for any "in memory of" or "in honor of" designation
- How your donor name should appear
- Whether you will take the plants after the Easter Sunday service

Checks (payable to the church) may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

Samuel and Claire Bell Grant for LCCC Scholarship

Scholarship funds are once again for **children and grandchildren of FPCP members** to attend Ligonier Camp through the **Samuel and Claire Bell Grant**, thanks to The Pittsburgh Foundation.

Children can attend **Little Ligs** starting at age 6 (2-night stay), and **Classic Camp** beginning at age 8 (1-week session). For more details about camp sessions, visit www.ligoniercamp.org. For questions about the Bell Grant, **contact the church office** at 412-471-3436.

First Church Staff and Clergy

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Louis Pack
John Radford
Sharon Zorich

**VOLUNTEER SOUND/
VIDEO TECHNICIANS**
Victor Ndinyah
Doug Williams
Dan Conner
David Charlton
Brian Vertz

Our Sanctuary is open to visitors Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Call to Schedule a Tour!

You can reach the Church Office Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Call: 412-471-3436 | Email: info@fpcp.org | www.fpcp.org.

Visiting Us Today?



Scan Code to Connect with Us!

Giving Online?



Scan Code to Give!

Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get a sticker for your parking ticket at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). Scan both sides of the ticket at the payment booth at the **Oliver**, **Mellon Square**, and **Smithfield** garages to pay \$1 for parking.