

March 1, 2026



**First Presbyterian  
Church**  
of Pittsburgh

*Communion Sunday* – 10:45 am

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\*Please stand as you are able

**Prelude:** “*Andante pastorale, Joseph Reinberger*”

Alaine Fink, *organ*  
Scott Bell, *oboe*

**Time of Welcome**

Rev. Dr. Craig M. Walls  
*Senior Pastor*

### *Gathering Before the Word*

\***Responsive Call to Worship**

Michael Gartland  
*Liturgist*

Leader: What does the Lord require of us?

**People: To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.**

Leader: With what shall we come before the Lord?

**People: With speech that is gentle, and words that build up.**

Leader: How shall we live our faith?

**People: With actions that bring peace, and works that lift up the lowly.**

**All: Come and worship God in spirit and in truth.**

\***Hymn #645:** “*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*” (located in this bulletin)

**Call to Confession**

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

Michael Gartland

Lord, we come to confess our sins, for all the places in our lives where we have fallen short.

When we feel beaten down by the world, Merciful One, free us from sorrow and grief.

When we are wounded by careless words, help us refrain from lashing out in our suffering and hurting the ones we love. Fill us with a hunger and a thirst for righteousness, that we may walk humbly in your ways and be a blessing to everyone we meet. *Amen.*

## Time of Silent Prayer and Confession

### Assurance of Forgiveness

### Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Walls

## *Proclaiming the Word*

**Scripture Reading:** John 19: 25 - 27

Michael Gartland

<sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### **Anthem:** *"At the Cross, Her Station Keeping"*

By Dale Wood

At the cross, her station keeping,  
Stood the mournful mother weeping,  
Where He hung, the dying Lord;

For her soul, of joy bereaved,  
Bowed the anguish, deeply grieved,  
Felt the sharp and piercing sword.

O how sad and sore distressed  
Now was she, that mother blessed,  
Of the sole begotten One.

Deep the woe of her affliction,  
Where she saw the crucifixion  
Of her ever glorious Son.

Jesus, may her deep devotion  
Stir in me the same emotion,  
Fount of love, Redeemer kind,

That my heart, fresh ardor gaining  
And a purer love attaining,  
May with Thee acceptance find.

**Sermon:** "Woman, behold your son!"

Rev. Walls

## *Responding to the Word*

### \*Affirmation of Faith – The Nicene Creed

**W**e believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

**\*Hymn #424:** *“Out of the Depths” - Psalm 130* (located in this bulletin)

## **Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

**Invitation to the Lord’s Table**

**Communion Prayer**

**Words of Institution**

## **The Lord’s Prayer**

**O**ur 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.*

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

Rev. Walls

**Offertory:** *“Quia Respexit”*

*J. S. Bach*

Jackie Guthridge, *soloist*

Scott Bell, *oboe d’amore*

### **Context and Translation (Luke 1:48)**

Latin: Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae, ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.

English: "For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations will call me blessed."

## **\*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**

Rev. Walls

**\*Hymn #839:** *“Blessed Assurance”* (located in this bulletin)

## **Commissioning**

Mary Caswell, Volunteer and Community Operations and Safety Coordinator

## **\*Invitation, Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude:** *“Blessed Assurance”*

Setting by J. Bert Carlson

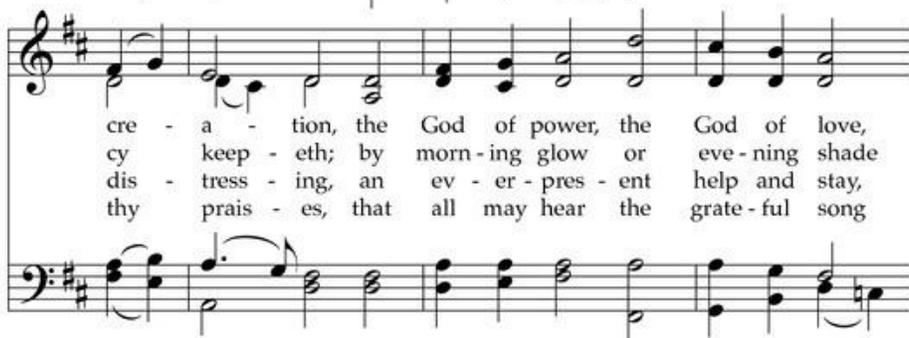
Alaine Fink, *organ*



## 645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above



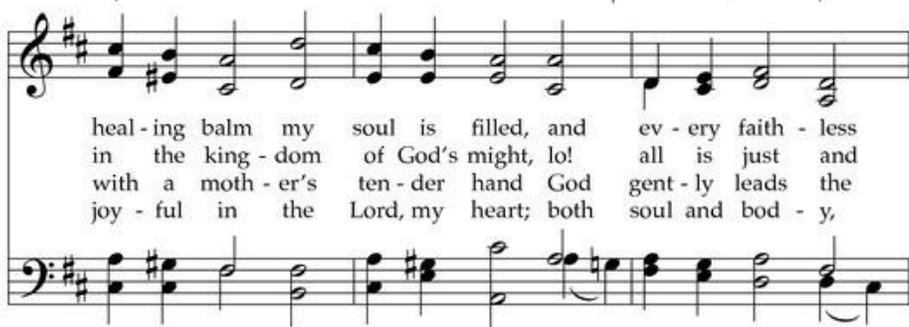
1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all  
 2 What God's al - might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -  
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief  
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud



cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,  
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade  
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,  
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song



the God of our sal - va - tion. With  
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -  
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as  
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be



heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less  
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and  
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the  
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,



mur - mur stilled:  
 all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!  
 cho - sen band:  
 take your part:

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

## Out of the Depths

(Psalm 130)

1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me  
 2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with  
 3 In you a-lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own  
 4 My soul is wait-ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for

call-ing. In-cline your ear to my dis-tress in spite of  
 fa-vor. All our good works are done in vain with-out our  
 mer-it. We rest our fears in your good word; up-hold our  
 morn-ing; no watch-er waits with great-er hope than I for

my re-bel-ling. Do not re-gard my sin-ful deeds. Send me the  
 Lord and Sav-ior. We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us  
 faint-ing spir-it. Your prom-ised mer-cy is my fort, my com-fort,  
 your re-turn-ing. I hope as Is-rael in the Lord, who sends re-

grace my spir-it needs; with-out it I am noth-ing.  
 from the grip of death; our lives are in your keep-ing.  
 and my strong sup-port; I wait for it with pa-tience.  
 demp-tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer-cy!

In many times and places, human despair has been described as an experience like being in a deep pit or drowning under much water. That is where this paraphrase of Psalm 130 begins. This setting is especially evocative when sung with the original German text.

## 839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

1 Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a  
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of  
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,  
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing,  
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing,

pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.  
 bring from a - bove, ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.  
 look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*

This is my sto - ry; this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior

all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Sometimes this prolific 19th-century hymnwriter wrote texts for others to set, and sometimes she created words for tunes others had composed. This text was of the second kind, and the resulting close fit between words and music has made them both popular and inseparable.

## 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.

**Spring Forward Next Sunday!** – Daylight Saving Time Begins March 8<sup>th</sup>

### 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.

### 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](http://www.ligoniercamp.org). For questions about the Bell Grant, **contact the church office** at 412-471-3436.

## Looking Ahead . . .



### Worship with us:

**Maundy Thursday Service - April 2 - 7:00 pm** - This will be both a communion service and a Tenebrae.

**Good Friday: April 3 - Noon** - Service followed by a City-wide Prayer Walk.

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

**Marathon Sunday - Volunteers Needed** - This year's marathon will take place on **Sunday, May 3**. Our building will be open that morning to provide restroom access for runners and visitors. We are seeking volunteers to serve as building monitors and individuals to join **Rev. Walls** in offering **prayer and spiritual support** to runners beginning at 5:00 a.m. If you can help, please contact the church office at **412-471-3436 x213** or **cblack@fpcp.org**

**New Summer Worship Time** - Beginning **June 14** and continuing through September 6, Session has unanimously approved moving Sunday worship to **9:30 a.m.** to take advantage of the cooler morning temperatures.

## First Church Staff and Clergy

Church Office: 412-471-3436  
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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.

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