

We welcome you to worship with us this morning! Out of consideration for the people around you, please ensure that your mobile devices are set to silent mode.

Regular Print: Leader

**Bold: Congregation**

*\*Asterisk: Please stand if able*

“The main object of (1<sup>st</sup> Peter) is to raise us above the world, in order that we may be prepared and encouraged to sustain the spiritual contests of our warfare. For this end, the knowledge of God’s benefits avails much; for, when their value appears to us, all other things will be deemed worthless, especially when we consider what Christ and his blessings are; for everything without him is but dross. For this reason he highly extols the wonderful grace of God in Christ, that is, that we may not deem it much to give up the world in order that we may enjoy the invaluable treasure of a future life; and also that we may not be broken down by present troubles, but patiently endure them, being satisfied with eternal happiness.”

– John Calvin, in his commentary on 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:1

✚ WE GATHER AROUND GOD’S WORD ✚

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude (11:00)

*Liturgical Sketch #2*

Rosalia Lopez (United States, b.1977)

Call to Worship:

Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace; approach our God, who is full of mercy.  
We will praise God with all our heart and glorify the name of the Most High forever.  
The day of the Lord is coming! The day of the Lord is near!  
The time is fulfilled! The reign of God is at hand!  
O people, repent! Believe in the gospel!  
Come, let us turn and follow the Lord!

Prayer of Adoration

\*Opening Hymn: #393

O Day of Rest and Gladness

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS

\*Prayer of Confession:

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. Almighty God, our Redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messenger of forgiveness and hope. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon (from Ephesians 2)

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together in Christ. By his surpassing grace we have been saved! Friends, believe the good news of the gospels.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\*The Gloria Patri #581

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

✚ WE LISTEN AS THE SCRIPTURES ARE PROCLAIMED ✚

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58:9-17

Pew Bible p.842

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Message for Young Disciples

*Pastor Ben*

\*Hymn: The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Joy

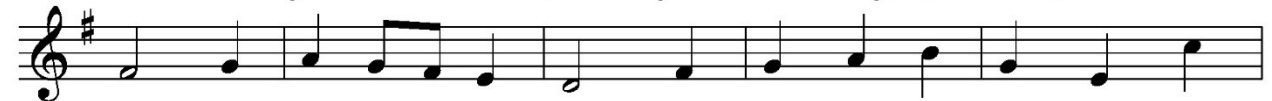
HANOVER

B. Austin Rees, 1911-1983

attrib. to William Croft, 1678-1727



1 The king-dom of God is jus-tice and joy, for Je-sus re-  
2 The king-dom of God is mer-cy and grace; the cap-tives are  
3 God's king-dom has come, the gift and the goal; in Je-sus be-



stores what sin would de-stroy. God's pow-er and glo-ry in  
freed, the sin-ners find place. The out-casts are wel-comed God's  
gun, in heav-en made whole. The heirs of the king-dom shall



Je-sus we know, and here and for-ev-er the king-dom shall grow.  
ban-quet to share, and hope is a-wak-ened in place of de-spair.  
an-swer his call, and all things cry "Glo-ry!" to God All-in-All.

New Testament Reading: I Peter 1:1-9

Pew Bible p. 281-282

Sermon: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

The Rev. Benjamin Black

✚ WE RESPOND IN FAITH AND GRATITUDE ✚

\*Sung Affirmation of Faith: #481 I Believe in God the Father GENEVAN 42

Offertory Interlude (11:00) *Prelude in D minor* Clara Schumann (Germany, 1819-1896)  
(Your prayer requests may be written on the blue prayer cards and placed in the offering plate.)

\*Hymn of Thanksgiving: For the Fruit of All Creation AR HYD Y NOS  
Fred Pratt Green, 1970 Traditional Welsh melody

For the fruit of all cre-a-tion, thanks be to God. For the gifts to ev - ery  
na-tion, thanks be to God. For the plow-ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, si-lent growth while  
we are sleep-ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, thanks be to God.

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.

The Sacrament of Communion

✚ WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD ✚

\*Closing Hymn: #529 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether UNION SEMINARY

\*Benediction

Postlude (11:00) *Fantasia in G, BWV 550* J.S. Bach (Germany, 1685-1750)



First Presbyterian Church

Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 12, 2025 • 8:30 & 11:00 AM

"Praise be to the God  
and Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ! In his  
great mercy he has  
given us new birth  
into a living hope  
through the  
resurrection of  
Jesus Christ from  
the dead."  
1 Peter 1:3

*A Living Rock*  
by Bruce H. 2014

The First Presbyterian Church of Meadville, Pennsylvania • founded 1800

www.meadvillefpc.org • 814-333-2161

The Rev. Benjamin Black • Senior Pastor

Mary Zahora • Administrative Assistant

Kevin Dill • Director of Music

Kris Lubomski • Financial Secretary

Vickie Fischer • Children's Ministry Coordinator

Elijah Boyd • Custodian

Chris Wade • Evening Custodian