

We welcome you to this service of prayer and praise! [Please set your mobile devices to silent mode.]

Regular Print: Leader

Bold: Congregation

**Asterisk: Please stand if able*

“We don’t believe something by merely saying we believe it, or even when we believe that we believe it. We believe something when we act as if it were true.”

– Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart: Putting On the Character of Christ*

✝ WE GATHER AROUND GOD’S WORD ✝

Welcome & Announcements (225th Anniversary Quilt)

Bagpipe Processional

Amazing Grace

Call to Worship:

An anniversary is more than the mere marking of passing time. It is not a story of days but of events. Happy is the anniversary if it is the recording of events that mark progress.

We are grateful to Almighty God that it is our privilege to share in the celebration of our church’s 225th birthday. That joy is deepened because it is the “anniversary of events that mark progress.”

God has blessed this Church with spiritual prosperity. She was conceived in faith, born in sacrifice, and nurtured in determined hope.

This Church was founded in 1800, two hundred and twenty-five years ago. She began her ministry with a few members. She has weathered the storm through all these years. She has served this community in its sorrows and in its joys, in its defeats, and its successes. Today she stands unshaken on the Human Highway of Service, supported by a great history, tempered by a great opportunity, and challenged by a great future.

Prayer of Adoration

Bagpipe Recessional

Going Home

*Opening Hymn: #305

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy

DARWALL’S 148th

*Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, we are not always people who live by faith. We know that we were created in your image, but we treat ourselves and each other in ways that do not honor your presence within us. We know your laws and your commandments, but we choose to disobey you and to act in ways that harm our neighbors. We hear your call to reach out to those most in need, but instead we turn our backs on them and on you. Forgive us, O God, and help us day by day to become more faithful followers and the people you created us to be.

In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*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, has 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

music: Henry Greatorex

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost, as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

✝ WE LISTEN AS THE SCRIPTURES ARE PROCLAIMED ✝

Remembering Our Heritage: A History of First Presbyterian Church

Choral Anthem

O Love

Elaine Hagenberg (United States, b.1979)

Text: hymn #833, v.1 and 3

Message for Young Disciples

Chuck Claspy

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 11:8-16

Pew Bible p. 273-274

Sermon: May The Fourth Be With You

The Rev. Benjamin Black

✝ WE RESPOND IN FAITH AND GRATITUDE ✝

*Sung Affirmation of Faith: #694

Great God of Every Blessing

AURELIA

Offertory Interlude

Soliloquy

Gordon Young (United States, 1919–1998)

(Your prayer requests may be written on the blue prayer cards and placed in the offering plate.)

*Hymn of Thanksgiving: #711

Lord of All Good

TOULON

Recognition of Longstanding Members

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.



First Presbyterian Church

The Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 4, 2025 • 11:00 AM

✠ WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD ✠

*Closing Hymn: Earth's Scattered Isles MEADVILLE

Jeffery Rowthorn, 1974 Walter Pelz, 1975



1 Earth's scat-tered isles and con-toured hills which part the seas and
2 God's judg-ment passed on so-cial ills that thwart a-while di-
3 The con-stant care which Is-rael knew a-like in faith and
4 The light which shines through no-ble acts, the quest for truth dis-



mold the land, and vis-tas new-ly seen from space
vine in-tent, the flag-ging dreams of wea-ry folk
faith-less-ness, the sub-tle prov-i-dence which guides
pel-ling lies, the grace of Christ re-newed in us



that show a world awe-some and grand, all won-drous-
whose brave new world lies torn and rent, in pain-ful
a pil-grim church through change and stress, in-spire us
so love lives on and dis-cord dies, all blend their



ly u-nite to sing: take heart, take hope, the Lord is King!
form their mes-sage bring: take heart, take hope, the Lord is King!
grate-ful-ly to sing: take heart, take hope, the Lord is King!
song good news to bring: take heart, take hope, the Lord is King!

Postlude *Fugue in E flat, BWV 552* J.S. Bach (Germany, 1685-1750)



The First Presbyterian Church of Meadville, Pennsylvania • *founded 1800*
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Mary Zahora • *Administrative Assistant*

Kevin Dill • *Director of Music*

Kris Lubomski • *Financial Secretary*

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