

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WASHINGTONVILLE

First Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2021



## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Welcome to worship!

We praise God for everyone who joins us in worshipping this weekend.

It is a blessing to worship God as part of a community of faith.

ōWhen I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,  
I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature  
of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.ö

*Genesis 9:14-15*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

ōAnd Can It Be?ö

Thomas Campbell

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Psalm 24:1

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,

**People: the world, and those who live in it.**

\*HYMN #21

ōThis Is My Fatherø Worldö

**1.** This is my Fatherø world, and to my listening ears all nature sings,  
And round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Fatherø world: I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees,  
Of skies and seas ó his hand the wonders wrought.

**3.** This is my Fatherø world: he shines in all thatø fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King, let heaven ring! God reigns; let earth be glad!

(Hymns are from the public domain and reprinted here from our hymnal, *Worship and Rejoice*.  
Please don't distribute copies beyond the use of this worship service.)

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

**Lord God, we confess that we have no real idea how great You are. You want to love, save and forgive us, and we don't believe you can really do that. So, we turn away from You, mired in our own sins. Help us to trust in You more, hope in You more, rely on You more, in Your Son's name. Amen.**

*(Moment of Silent Reflection)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (responsive)

Psalm 30:4-5a

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name.

People: **For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.**

### **\*THE GLORIA**

**Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ,  
and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen.**

## **WE HEAR THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

FIRST READING                      Genesis 9:8-17

SECOND READING                    1 Peter 3:18-22

ANTHEM                              òWhat a Friend We Have in Jesusö                      Joseph Scriven

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

\*GOSPEL READING                      Mark 1:9-15

MEDITATION                              The Fast of God                              Rev. Martha Carlson

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD**

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #252                      òLord, Who Throughout These Forty Daysö  
**1. Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,  
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.**

2. As you did hunger and did thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,  
To die to self, and so to live by your most holy Word.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

[C67-9.07]

**In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. We confess that Jesus Christ is God with us, the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. We believe that the risen Christ is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all we say about God, ourselves, and the world.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK ARE: Albert R., Anne, Ashley S., Charlie N., the family of Daniel, Dennis F., Edd C., Ed R., Eileen Z., the family of Jack, Jorus & Tom B., Kathy D., Kira & her husband, Mary, Katherine & Leilanni N., Baby Patrick Anthony, Richard B., Sandy P., Sue H., the family of Warren Jr., the family of Zachary C., and the men and women in our Armed Forces, especially Ashley Sabo-National Guard, Ben Clark-U.S. Navy, Marine Jimmy Glendening, Marine Nate Holt, PFC Michael Grounds, LC Michael Haub, Airman Frank Terry-Air Force, and Airman Christopher Jonza. Also in our prayers this week are Congers PC, PresbyBuild, and Universal Day of Prayer for Students.

#### THE OFFERING

It is important that we offer ourselves to God, with or without the physical symbols of offering, because it is in the using of our gifts that we serve God. Financial offerings may be mailed to the church. The church's mailing address is 30 Goshen Avenue, Washingtonville NY 10992.

#### \*THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time and labor, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. Amen.**

## WE TAKE GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING HYMN #446

ōO Love That Will Not Let Me Goö

1. O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.  
3. O Joy that sleekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall  
tearless be.

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

ōMy Hope is Built on Nothing Lessö

Edward Mote

### **Meditation questions about the Scriptures:**

What's a covenant? Are they always two sided?

What is God's covenant with the earth?

Does the Bible say the earth has an end of the bargain to uphold?

Why does God tell Noah about the covenant?

Why did Jesus die a suffering death?

What did He do after dying?

What saved Noah and his family from the flood?

What does baptism do for us?

Did Jesus need saving? Why do you think He was baptized?

Who does Mark say saw the Spirit of God at Jesus's baptism?

Why are we told about it?

What did Jesus do next?

What other Bible stories take 40 days (or years?) What do they have in common with this story?

Mark doesn't tell us specifically what Jesus was doing in the wilderness. Who was with Him?

In your opinion what good did it do to test Jesus at the beginning of His ministry?

What did Jesus do as soon as He came back from the wilderness?

### **Announcements:**

**Congregational Meeting** – there will be a brief congregational meeting at 9:30 AM on Sunday, February 28, 2021 for the purpose to vote on a nomination to the office of Deacon.

**Food Pantry Fundraiser** - Food for Kids Fundraiser 2021 - Please help children with food insecurity by donating food or money to purchase food. Use the link below to do a food order or make a cash donation. Copy this link to participate in our FOOD FOR KIDS 2021 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER: <https://facebook.com/events/s/ffk-february-fundraiser/315133906476022/?ti=icl>

**Maundy Thursday & Good Friday** – Hudson River Presbytery is offering online services for Maundy Thursday (4/01) and Good Friday (4/02). Be on the lookout, as we will have more information to share. Bethlehem PC will be hosting an all zoom Maundy Thursday fellowship meal and service, with details to come, and both churches are invited.

**Snow Cancellation** – Our church cancellation policy during the winter months is to evaluate weather conditions on a case by case basis to determine if church closure is advisable for the safety of our congregation. The church's answering machine will have a message about closure. Our website will have a special notice on the front page. A group email will be sent and phone calls will be made to members of our congregation who do not have computers or do email.

**Choices to communicate PRAYER NEEDS:**

1. Send your prayer requests to Lois via email: [lbd9999@hvc.rr.com](mailto:lbd9999@hvc.rr.com). There are currently 42 persons in our e-Prayer Circle who are notified of prayer requests. Cynthia will add names from e-prayer requests to the weekly prayer list.

2. During Sunday worship services, fill out a prayer request card or verbalize your request at prayer time.

God does hear and answer our prayers! Thank you, God!

Prayer requests from worship services and from e-Prayer Circle will be put on our weekly prayer list and remain on the list for 30 days, unless requested otherwise.

**Things we can still do together:**

**Worship** - To attend, you must be able to answer NO to all three screening questions. The questions are: have you tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 14 days? Have you been exposed to Covid-19 in the last 14 days? Do you have symptoms of Covid-19?

**Join the Bible Study.** We are studying "Bad Girls of the Bible" at 9:30 Thursday mornings. Join by computer or telephone. The zoom link and phone numbers will be provided on request.

**Read Daily Bread or Guideposts**, if you have them. Remember the many people in the congregation and around the country who are reading the same books for their daily devotions.

**Read the daily reading and prayer sent by the church.**

**Join the people who are reading the Bible-in-a-year readings.** This week's readings are: Sunday: Joshua 18-21; Monday: Joshua 22-24, Judges 1; Tuesday: Judges 2-5; Wednesday: Judges 6-9; Thursday: Judges 10-13; Friday: Judges 14-17; Saturday: Judges 18-21.

**Participate in the church offering.**

**Check on friends** by phone. If you let Martha know which members of the congregation you're checking on, we can coordinate volunteers to cover any gaps.

Office hours: Tuesday 3:00-5:00;  
Thursday morning after Bible Study (by appointment)  
Call the manse phone any time at 845-614-0048, or email Martha at  
**revmpc86@yahoo.com** or text Martha at 717-953-2257.

The church office will be open only as needed until further notice.  
Messages left on the answering machine and emails sent to  
**fpcwashingtonville@gmail.com** will be checked regularly.  
The church's mailing address is 30 Goshen Avenue, Washingtonville NY 10992.  
The church's website is [fpcw.makeswebsites.com](http://fpcw.makeswebsites.com)  
The church Facebook page is First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville.  
Questions, comments, discussion group on Facebook is  
Washingtonville First Presbyterian Church.