

ANTHEM “My Jesus” arr. by David Wise

PASTORAL PRAYER

SERMON “What Are You Looking For?” Pastor Ken

SPECIAL MUSIC “They Could Not” R. Harris/C. Cloninger
Belinda Vair/Soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Sharing of Joys, Concerns and Gratitude)

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 and ever. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN #248 “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Hallelujah Chorus” G. F. Handel
Belinda Vair/Accompanist-Choir Director

Thank you to those who purchased an Easter Lily. They beautify the Sanctuary! Please remember to take yours home after the worship service. Also, a special thank you to Sandy Lane for orchestrating the orders and picking up the Lilies.

First Presbyterian Church of Johnstown, NY – YouTube link:



<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianJohnstown>



April 5, 2026

10:30am

Welcome to worship at the First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown. Whether you are here in the sanctuary or joining us online, we are glad you are with us. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here, and we give thanks for the gift of worshipping together today!

MISSION OF THE MONTH Haven of Hope

Pastor Ken
Mona Cole

PRELUDE “Majesty” arr. by Mark Hayes
Belinda Vair/Accompanist-Choir Director

CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (PLEASE RISE) *PSALMS 118:1-2,14-24 & JOHN 20:1-18*

Leader: Early in the morning, while it was still dark, love came to the tomb.

People: And the stone was rolled away.

Leader: We come carrying sorrow, questions, and longing.

People: Yet God meets us with hope we did not expect.

Leader: Christ stands among us, calling us by name.

People: Our mourning is turned toward joy.

Leader: The Lord is our strength and our song.

People: The Lord has become our salvation.

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: Come out of the shadows.

People: We step into the light of resurrection.

Leader: Come and worship the risen Christ.

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

(PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT)

***OPENING HYMN #232**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

CALL TO CONFESSION

JOHN 20:1-18

Leader: Even on Easter morning, we do not always arrive full of joy. Sometimes we come like Mary—carrying grief, confusion, and questions. Sometimes we come looking for the living Christ in places of fear, habit, and death. And still, Christ meets us with grace. Still, Christ calls us by name. Still, Christ invites us to come into the light. So let us be honest before God and one another. Let us confess our sin, trusting in the mercy of the risen Lord.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

JOHN 20:1-18

All: Risen Christ, we confess that too often we live as though the stone is still in place. You call us into new life, but we cling to old fears. You call us by name, but we listen instead to shame, doubt, and despair. You meet us in love, but we struggle to believe that resurrection is possible. We confess that we are looking for you in the wrong places.

We expect death to have the last word. We return to what is familiar, even when it cannot give life. Forgive us, Lord. Roll away the stones in our hearts. Lift us out of all that keeps us bound. Open our eyes to your presence, open our ears to your voice, and lead us into the joy of Easter morning. Make us people of hope, people of courage, people who live as though Your resurrection really changes everything. God, in Your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Leader: Let us take a moment for our own personal confession to the God we worship.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

JOHN 20:1-18

Leader: Hear the good news: the tomb is empty, the stone is rolled away, and Christ is alive. We do not belong to sin. We do not belong to fear. We do not belong to the grave. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and made new. The risen Christ calls us by name and sends us out in peace and joy. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Risen Christ, as your Word is read and proclaimed, roll away whatever keeps us from seeing you clearly. Where we are distracted, quiet us. Where we are weary, renew us. Where we are doubtful, reassure us. Where we are hurting, meet us with your grace. Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our hearts to receive your good news. Open our lives to the new thing you are doing among us. Call us by name again, and lead us from the shadows into the joy of resurrection life.

In Christ’s name we pray. **Amen.**

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end, amen! Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC “An Easter Hallelujah”

arr. L. Cohen
Connie Chamberlain
Laura Ruehle
Helen Thompson

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 118:1-2,14-24 (Pew Bible Page #565)

John 20:1-18 (Pew Bible Page #114)

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. And we all say:

People: Thanks be to God.