

ANTHEM “With His Stripes We Are Healed”

Lila Miller

PASTORAL PRAYER

SERMON “The Least Likely”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Sharing of Joys and Concerns)

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 #300** (Red Hymnal) “We Are One in the Spirit”

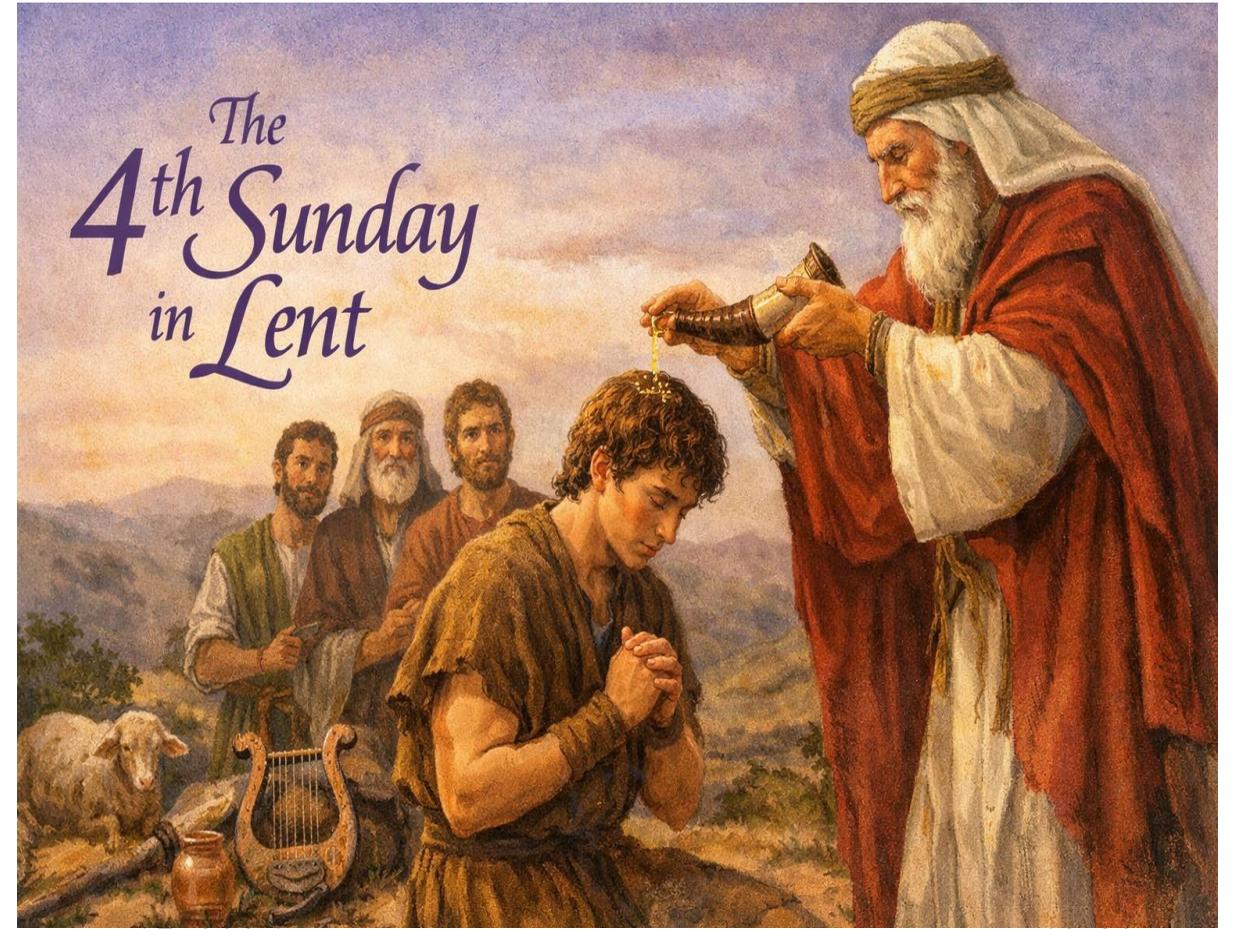
CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Trumpet Voluntary in D” John Bennett (1735-1784)
Belinda Vair Accompanist/Choir Director

Thank you to Session for providing us with today’s Coffee Hour

First Presbyterian Church of Johnstown, NY – YouTube link:
<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianJohnstown>



March 15, 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 worshiping together!

Pastor Ken

MISSION OF THE MONTH One Great Hour of Sharing

PRELUDE “Traumerei”

Robert Schumann

Belinda Vair Accompanist/Choir Director

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We have come to the midpoint of our Lenten journey.

People: God has brought us this far by grace.

Leader: We come with weary hearts, hopeful hearts, and searching hearts.

People: God meets us here and calls us by name.

Leader: The Lord does not see as mortals see.

People: God looks upon the heart.

Leader: As God chose David and anointed him for service,

People: so, God calls each of us for holy purpose.

Leader: Once we lived in shadow,

People: but now in Christ we are called to walk as children of light.

Leader: Awake, rise up, and live in God's love.

People: We come to worship the One who calls, chooses, and leads us on.

All: Let us worship God.

(PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT)

***OPENING HYMN #39 (Red Hymnal) "Great is Thy Faithfulness"**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Ken

Leader: Even as children of the light, we sometimes lose our way. We forget who we are, resist God's calling, and cling to what is familiar instead of trusting where God is leading. Yet God is merciful, gracious, and always ready to receive us with love. Trusting in that grace, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Gracious God, You see what we often miss. You look upon the heart, while we are too often distracted by outward things. Forgive us for judging others too quickly, for doubting the gifts you have given, and for resisting your call on our lives. Too often we choose comfort over courage and shadow over light.

Awaken us again by your grace. Help us walk as children of light, trusting that you have called us and claimed us for your purpose.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Leader: Let us take a moment for silent confession and personal reflection.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news: God does not judge us by the standards of the world, nor does God abandon those whom God has called. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and brought into the light. We are God's beloved people, chosen by grace and called for holy purpose.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Holy God, You called David from the fields and named him for your purpose. You call us still to walk in the light of Christ. As we hear your Word today, open our hearts, awaken our spirits, and help us see ourselves and one another as you see us. By your Spirit, give us courage to answer your call and faithfulness to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mona Cole

1 Samuel 16: 1-13 (Pew Bible Page #259)

Ephesians 5:8-14 (Pew Bible Page #194)

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

People: Thanks be to God.