

***CLOSING HYMN #353** “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Nachspeil”
composed by ANTON BRUCKER
BELINDA VAIR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- + Our **Mission of the Month** is **Salvation Army of Upstate New York**.
- + Bible Study continues on **Thursday, October 1 at 4:00**. We will study the **Gospel of Luke** chapters 3-6.
- + **Free Community Lunch** will be **Saturday, October 3, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**.
- + Thank you to the Deacons for providing us with this morning’s coffee hour and birthday celebration cake.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JOHNSTOWN, NY
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 **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianJohnstown>

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Ken Killian, Pastor
Craig Talarico, Clerk of Session
Dawn Austin, Office Administrator

Belinda Vair, Music Director
Jim Wright, Custodian



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!

PRELUDE “Simple Gifts”

CHORAL INTROIT

ARR. BY JENNIFER ELKINS
BELINDA VAIR

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT)

HELEN THOMPSON

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who calls us to walk humbly with him.

People: We come, trusting that God walks with us.

Leader: Come, even if you do not have all the answers.

People: We come with our questions, our doubts, and our hopes.

Leader: Come, even if the road behind you has been difficult.

People: We come carrying our joys and our sorrows, knowing that God is with us.

Leader: Come, for the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: We come to receive God's grace and to offer our praise.

Leader: Come, for every day is a new opportunity to turn toward God and say yes to his call.

All: We are here to worship, to listen, to receive, and to walk with our God. Let us worship God together!

***OPENING HYMN #475** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Gracious God, We confess that we do not always walk the path you place before us. We have said no when you called us to say yes. We have allowed fear to keep us from taking the next step. We have held onto guilt when you offered us grace. We have judged ourselves and others more harshly than you judge us. We have looked backward with regret and forward with fear, forgetting that you are present with us today. Forgive us, O God. Help us to release what we cannot change. Give us courage to learn from our mistakes without being imprisoned by them. Give us humility to turn around when we have gone the wrong way. Give us faith to take the next step, even when we cannot see the whole road. And teach us to trust that your grace is greater than our failures. Through Jesus Christ, who calls us again and again to follow him. Amen

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***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

HELEN THOMPSON

Leader: Holy God, giver of wisdom and source of all truth, as we hear Your word, open our ears to hear it, our minds to understand it, and our hearts to receive it. Where we need forgiveness, remind us of your grace. Where we need courage, strengthen us. And where we have become convinced that our story is already written, remind us that you are still at work. Help us to hear your invitation to walk with you—not because we understand the entire road, but because we trust the One who walks beside us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

HELEN THOMPSON

Micah 6:8

Matthew 21:23-32

Leader: This is the word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “He is My Savior. He is My Friend”
w/Debbie Ellsworth as Guest Flautist

BY DON BESIG

DEACON’S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

TESTIMONY “A Second Chance: Walking Humbly With God” LAURA RUEHLE

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.