

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Liturgist: Though we be lost in sin, God never abandons us to desolation.
God so loved the world that he sent his only Son:

Not to condemn the world, but so the world through him might be saved!
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone! Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **In Jesus, our Christ, we are forgiven! Amen!**

*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from: "A Brief Statement of Faith," PC (USA)*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON - Larry Morrison

Kindly pass your written prayer requests to the center so they may be placed into the basket. These will be included in the Pastoral Prayer of the Day and also forwarded to the Prayer Cordon for special attention. Thank you.

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord

Felix Mendelssohn

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON I Samuel 17:33-51 *(Pew Bible p. 255)*

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE CHOIR ANTHEM

When Jesus Wept

William Billings

THE EPISTLE LESSON Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-16 *(Pew Bible p. 209)*

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle. All: **Praise be to you, O Lord.**

*THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 9:9-13, 35-38 *(Pew Bible p. 8)*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord. All: **Glory to You, O Christ.**

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE - Hymn 321, vs. 1

SONG 13

*Holy Spirit, truth divine, Dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God, and inward light, Wake my spirit, clear my sight.*

THE SERMON

Reverend Winship

“ST. PATRICK IS ALIVE AND WELL ...
DOWN AT MURPHY’S BAR!”

THE PASTORAL PRAYER & THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (using “debts” and “debtors”)

THE THREE-FOLD AMEN

Danish

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ah, Holy Jesus

Gary Matheny

*THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

*THE UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, we bring our gifts in faithfulness to your call, beckoning us to a life of sacrifice and love. Now receive these offerings, and continue to shape us in the likeness of Christ, our Lord, whose obedience to your will and whose death on the cross have set us free from the bondage of sin and brought us from darkness into light. Amen.

*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN 344 *Christ of the Upward Way* SURSUM CORDA

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE *May The Road Rise Up To Meet You* Robert Lau

*THE TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL (*2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17*)

Pastor: May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and graciously gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, now encourage our hearts and strengthen us in every good deed and word.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us go in Peace and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE POSTLUDE *Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

Bradbury
arr. Morrison

*Those who are able, please stand.

WE WELCOME THE REVEREND MR. MICHAEL WINSHIP to our pulpit this morning. Reverend Winship is a graduate of Lafayette College and Columbia Theological Seminary. The Winships spent 25 years in northern Virginia where Reverend Winship planted two churches. While in Pennsylvania, Reverend Winship served as the minister of the former Calvary Evangelical Presbyterian Church (now known as Grace @ Calvary Lutheran Church) on the diamond. Honorably retired with Beaver-Butler Presbytery, Reverend Winship has preached at 11 or 12 of our area churches. Reverend Winship and his wife Shirley live in Butler and call The Hill Presbyterian Church their home church.

GREETINGS to all this day who worship the God of past, present and future. We want to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to others sitting nearby during the passing of the peace.

THE GREETERS TODAY - Greeting our members and visitors before the Sunday worship services in March are Enid and Les Dunmire.

THE FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are provided by Orville and Edna Nicholas in memory of Loved Ones; and in loving memory of Amy (Laidlaw) Geiss, Edna's daughter.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR immediately follows this worship service downstairs in the Assembly Room. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. Hosting today's Fellowship Hour is Jane Hall.

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNION - THURSDAY, MARCH 29 @ 11:30 A.M.



A half-hour Special Needs Communion Service will be held on **Thursday, March 29th at 11:30 a.m.** The service is for shut-ins who are restricted by mobility, disability or have other health related issues which makes it difficult for them to attend the longer more formal Sunday worship services. A light lunch and fellowship will follow the service. **If you know of someone who can benefit from this service or if you can provide transportation, please contact Pastor Jim at the church office.**

Seekers Class Explores & Discusses PBS videos

The Seekers Class is currently viewing "*From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians*," the original series broadcast on PBS which explores the life and death of Jesus and tells the epic story of the rise of Christianity. The Seekers will view each video for a half-hour and then discuss how Christian faith can be reconciled with the "historical approach" to the Bible and to Jesus.

Inquiring minds are always welcome at the Seekers Adult Class which gathers each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in the Assembly Room. Tea, coffee and a snack are served from the small kitchen before class.



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week begins with the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on **Palm Sunday, April 1**. Pastor Jim and the Covenant Choir will process during the **11:00 a.m. worship service** with palm crowns. As is our tradition, palm fronds will be distributed to the congregation. The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will also be received.

Our **Maundy Thursday Service of Darkness** will be held at **8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 5th**. This powerful service is based on the ancient tradition of extinguishing the lights one by one until the worshipping congregation sits in total darkness in anticipation of Good Friday.

On **Friday, April 6th, a Joint Good Friday Worship Service** is scheduled with other Presbyterian churches and will be held at **St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 201 E. Jefferson St. at 12 noon.**

We will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ on **Easter morning, April 8th, at 11:00 a.m.** Preceding worship a prelude concert of organ music will be presented.

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns . . .

Pastor Jim & Andy Prayers for their safe return from the Phillipines
Dorothy Hitchcock at Butler Memorial Hospital, 3 Main, Room 3122
Mary Timmons prayers for improved physical comfort
Bob Moore Concordia at Rebecca Residence, 3746 Cedar Ridge Rd., Apt. 144-B, Allison Park, PA 15101
Paul Hoffman Ask God's care for Paul and reassurance for Mary

Celebrating birthdays this week . . .

Herbert Enyeart - March 20
Joseph D. Davidson - March 22
Linda Harvey Burkley - March 23

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please accept our apology. If you would like us to publish the date in the Chronicle and bulletin, please call the church office at 724-287-7731.

No anniversaries to report this week.

Suggested Donations for Covenant Cupboard in March

Soda or graham crackers

Baskets for your donations are located at the front entrance on E. Jefferson St.

Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah continues this **Wednesday, March 21 at Covenant Church at 1:00 p.m.** with Reverend Merry Hope Meloy leading the discussion. The course is based on the book by Rev. Dr. Carol M. Bechtel, published by Kerygma. Covenant, St. Andrews and Faith Presbyterian churches are participating. Reverend Merry Hope Meloy and Pastor Jim are teaching the class on alternate weeks and locations.

REMINDER: NOISY OFFERING (LAST Sunday of the month)

Remember to save your change and bring it with you to worship **next Sunday, March 25th** when we receive the Noisy Offering. Let us "make a joyful noise unto the Lord!"

ARTISTS FOR THE LENTEN CONCERT ON MARCH 31ST

Michael Desnoyers is in his senior year as a vocal performance and music education major at Slippery Rock University. This summer he participated in the studio program at Cincinnati Conservatory's Opera Theatre and Music Festival of Lucca in Lucca, Italy. Mr. Desnoyers performed his debut opera role in 2005 as the Officer in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with the Pittsburgh Opera. He will appear as Eisenstein in Slippery Rock's production of *Die Fledermaus* this April. Mr. Desnoyers performed the role of King Kaspar in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and sang the tenor solo in Mozart's *Requiem* in Slippery Rock University's productions. Other past roles include Padre (*Man of La Mancha*) and Roger (*Grease*). He has also been a member of the Pittsburgh Opera's chorus for *Rigoletto* and *Pagliacci* and sang in the chorus of *Le Nozze di Figaro* while in Lucca.

Mr. Desnoyers was the winner of the 2004 Chad Williamson Memorial Scholarship Competition, and he took second place at both the 2004 Tri-State NATS and 2006 Eastern Regional NATS competitions. He is currently the president of the university Concert Choir. Mr. Desnoyers has been a member and frequent soloist of many other performing ensembles at SRU including Chamber Singers, Men's Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band (II), and Jazz Combo. He has also been a member of the Covenant Presbyterian Choir for one year. In high school, he was a member of a number of honor choirs, including New York State All-State in 2001 and 2002 and MENC All-Eastern in 2003.

Beverly Antis, piano accompanist for Mr. Michael Desnoyers, is presently the Organist/Choir Director at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Miss Antis is a woman of many talents and artistic accomplishments. A retired vocal music teacher from the Butler Area School District, Beverly has been active in school bands, been choral director for several area churches, involved with the Butler Musical Theater Guild, is a member of the Early Music Ensemble, *Alle Psallite*, among others.

Krista Shinew has been hailed as "a brilliant performer...with programs well suited to the instrument and the room" as reviewed by the University of Pittsburgh. Winner of the Hope College Concerto Competition in 2001 and Duquesne University Concerto Competition in 2004 and most recently the winner of the Norine Potts National Competition in organ playing she is a highly sought after concert artist.

Krista Shinew is currently a doctoral candidate in organ at West Virginia University and is studying with Donald Wilkins. Prior to attending West Virginia University Ms. Shinew obtained a Masters of Music Theory from Duquesne University, a Masters in Organ Performance from the University of Michigan, and Bachelor of Music from Hope College. She has coached and studied with such world renowned artists as David Crieghead, Robert Glasgow, James Kibbie, Huw Lewis, Marilyn Mason, Gillian Wier, and Todd Wilson.

In addition to her studies, Krista also maintains a very active concert schedule. Her reputation as a performer has led her throughout the United States, Canada, and Italy She is a regularly featured artist at Tulip Time in Holland, MI. Aside from her renown as a solo artist Ms. Shinew is also a highly esteemed collaborative artist. She has performed as soloist with various choirs and orchestras and is also a member of *Tre Claviers*. *Tre Claviers*, a professional keyboard trio, is dedicated to rediscovering rarely performed keyboard concerti through combining organ, piano and harpsichord in innovative ways. The group is also known for their transcriptions of accompaniments for large scale choral works. Ms. Shinew is the Director of Music and Liturgy at Holy Family Catholic Parish in New Brighton.

A LETTER FROM OVERSEAS . . .

Pastor Jim and his son Andy are currently in the Philippines. Many people have asked if we have heard from him and how he is doing. Pastor Jim will return to the U.S. at the end of next week, but in the meantime, an email was received this past Friday from Pastor Jim to share with all of you:

It's Friday morning here in Manila (March 16) and I am in a "computer cafe" in the shopping mall reading and sending email. Andy and I had a very good trip over. It was long, of course, (16 hours from Chicago to Hong Kong and another 2 to Manila) but very tolerable, and the lines in Customs and Immigration were not too long. The weather here is quite pleasant, though a little bit on the warm side (high 80s - low 90s) . After the terrible winter in Pa., I'm enjoying this a lot.

I don't have very much to report yet, except that Andy and Shari are adorable together. Both were anxious with anticipation, I think, but when they actually met for the first time it was all smiles. They have been talking to each other on the phone every day for the last year and a half, so they actually know each other very well already. Shari's family is wonderful. On the night we arrived at the airport and took a cab to the hotel in Quezon City where we are staying, the entire family showed up with home-cooked chicken, rice and shrimp to serve us in the room. It was quite a party. We exchanged gifts and talked a lot. Shari's parents speak Tagalog primarily, but her mother does speak a little English. Shari's brother Bunso and her aunt Girle were there as well.

Of all the gifts we brought along, the big hits were (1) CHOCOLATE and (2) four packets of flower seeds I bought at the Dollar Store. We also gave bath towels, a key chain, baseball caps, toiletries and assorted other small items. When preparing for our trip we purchased a couple of Yankee candles for giving, but were tipped off by Shari ahead of time that in the Philippines it is considered "bad luck" to give a candle as a gift. I am sure we will be learning lots of other customs and superstitions in the days ahead.

For now, please know that Andy and I are safe and healthy. (My cold is almost gone.) I'm taking lots of pictures and I'll have many stories to tell upon my return. Thank you for your prayers. I remember all of you fondly in my prayers each day.

Love, Pastor Jim

March 18, 2007

Fourth Sunday of Lent

It is not experience of life but experience of the Cross that makes one a worthy hearer of confessions. The most experienced psychologist or observer of human nature knows infinitely less of the human heart than the simplest Christian who lives beneath the Cross of Jesus. The greatest psychological insight, ability, and experience cannot grasp this one thing: what sin is. Worldly wisdom knows what distress and weakness and failure are, but it does not know the godlessness of men. And so it also does not know that man is destroyed only by his sin and can be healed only by forgiveness. Only the Christian knows this. In the presence of a psychiatrist I can only be a sick man; in the presence of a Christian brother, I can dare to be a sinner.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), *Life Together*

The Reverend Michael Winship, Guest Minister

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