

February 23, 2025



**First Presbyterian  
Church  
of Pittsburgh**

**WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45 am**

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*\*Please stand as you are able*

**Prelude: “A Child Is Born”**  
by Thad Jones

Urban Impact Jazz Band

**Time of Welcome**

Rev. Dr. Daniel B. Merry, *Interim Senior Pastor*

**\*Responsive Call to Worship**

Leader: Jesus Christ, the Great Physician, invites us into the healing presence of God, our refuge.

**People: God knew us before we were born and summoned us to service in our youth.**

Leader: God, our Rock and Fortress, rescues us from injustice, cruelty, and wickedness.

**People: God touches our lips and puts words in our mouths.**

**God commands us to speak and removes our fears.**

Leader: God, our hope and trust, meets us where we are and lead us to times of witness and praise.

**People: God’s revelation comes in unexpected places to meet our needs and empower our service.**

**All: Come let us praise the Lord of the Universe.**

**\*Hymn: “How Firm a Foundation”** (*located in this bulletin*)

**Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Merry

**O God, we have been noisy gongs and clanging cymbals, impressed with our own knowledge and misled by childish reasoning. We have mistaken our hazy insights for Your truth and have resented others for whom Your love is life-changing. Forgive not only our arrogance, gracious God, but also our timidity. Equip us for an authentic witness to Your love.**

**Time of Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Children’s Message**

Rev. Merry

*(Children ages preschool – 2nd grade are invited to attend Children in Worship on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor balcony at this time. Children are to be picked up immediately after service in the chapel behind the high pulpit.)*

**\*Hymn: “In Christ Alone”** (*located in this bulletin*)

## Scripture Reading: Luke 11:1-13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> Forgive us our sins,  
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.  
And lead us not into temptation."

<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup> a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' <sup>7</sup> And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup> "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon:** "*Pointers for a Personal Prayer Life...*"

Rev. Merry

### \*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed

**W**e believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

### Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

**O**ur 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

**Call for the Offering** (*Online giving available, scan code on back*)

Rev. Merry

**Anthem: "Your Great Name"**

by Todd Dulaney

Urban Impact Choir and Jazz Band

*We love to call Your name  
It's something we cannot explain  
That happens when we proclaim  
Your Great Name, Your Great Name*

*We love to call Your name  
It's something we cannot explain  
That happens when we proclaim  
Your Great Name, Your Great Name*

*King Jesus no other name  
King Jesus none stronger  
We can call on You  
Things change, yes  
When we call on Your name*

*There is power in the name of Jesus  
Power in Your name  
(repeat 3x)*

*Things change when we call You Jesus  
Things change when we call Your name  
(repeat)*

*I'm free when I call You Jesus  
I'm free when I call Your name  
(repeat)*

*When I call Your name  
When I call Your name  
(repeat)*

*Demons tremble at the name  
When I call Your name*

*I feel much stronger when I call  
When I call Your name*

*I'm healed when, I'm healed when  
When I call Your name*

*I'm set free, I'm set free when  
When I call Your name*

*I'm alive when I call Your name  
When I call Your name*

*Yes God, yes God  
When I call Your name*

*I feel much better when I call  
When I call Your name*

*I feel much stronger when I call  
When I call Your name*

*I feel my blessing when I call  
When I call Your name*

*I feel my victory when I call  
When I call Your name*

*I feel the shifting when I call  
When I call Your name*

*I feel the breaking when I call  
When I call Your name*

*I feel the shifting when I call  
When I call Your name*

*I feel the breakthrough when I call  
When I call Your name*

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Merry

**\*Hymn: "How Great Thou Art"** (located in this bulletin)

**\*Invitation, Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude: "My All"**

by Doobie Powell

Urban Impact Jazz Band

## In Christ Alone

G D G A Bm

1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my  
 2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh— full - ness of  
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the  
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

G Em7 A D G D G

light, my strength, my song— this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id  
 God in help - less babe!— this gift of love and right - eous -  
 world by dark - ness slain; then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious  
 power of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fin - al

A Bm G Em7 A D

ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of  
 ness, scorned by the ones he came to save. 'Til on the  
 day, up from the grave he rose a - gain! And as he  
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No power of

G D A D G Bm7

love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings  
 cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -  
 stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on  
 hell, no hu - man plan, can ev - er pluck me from his

A G D G A

cease. My com - fort - er, my all in all,  
 fied. For ev - ery sin on him was laid;  
 me; for I am his and he is mine,  
 hand; 'til he re - turns or calls me home,

Bm G Em7 A D

here in the love of Christ I stand.  
 here in the death of Christ I live.  
 bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
 here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

## How Great Thou Art

**B<sup>b</sup>** **E<sup>b</sup>**

1 O Lord, my God, when I in awe - some won - der  
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der,  
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,  
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion,

**B<sup>b</sup>/F** **F7** **B<sup>b</sup>**

con - sid - er all the works thy hand hath made,  
 I hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees;  
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

**E<sup>b</sup>**

I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing thun - der,  
 when I look down from loft - y moun - tain gran - deur  
 that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing,  
 Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion

**B<sup>b</sup>/F** **F7** **B<sup>b</sup>**

thy power through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
 and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
 he bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
 and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee: how great thou art,

Chords: E<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>, F7

how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee:

Chords: B<sup>b</sup>, E<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>

how great thou art, how great thou art!

Chords: Cm7, F7, B<sup>b</sup>

## How Firm a Foundation

ISAIAH 43:1-5

D G Am7 Bm Em G/D Am7/E D

1 How firm a foun - da - tion you saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose

G C D C7 G/D D7 G

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent Word!  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 > the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow,  
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

D/F# G Em C/E G/D Am7/C D

What more can he say than to you he has said,  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 > for I will be with you in trou - ble to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

G Am7 Bm Em G/D D7 G

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 > and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"



## Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

### Hospitality Hour

Join us after worship this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the chapel. If you're visiting with us, we would especially like to get to know you!

### Welcome, Urban Impact Choir and Jazz Band

We are blessed to welcome the **Urban Impact Choir and Jazz Band** to participate in worship this morning. The students who participate in Urban Impact's Performing Arts Program are challenged to develop and share their gifts in music, dance, and acting, at venues locally and across the country. Be sure to visit with the musicians and staff from Urban Impact after worship to learn more about the great work they are doing right here in our community!

### Birthday Blessings to:

Beth Bonebrake, Kathy Haffly, Cindy Thompson and Bill Betts

### Our Walk-In Ministry Needs YOU This Week!

*We are in serious need of more volunteers to join our Walk-In Ministry team!* As you may know, our Walk-In Ministry serves our neighbors in need by providing groceries and a hot lunch, four days per month. We open our doors from 11am - 1pm and more than 50 guests join us each day. We will be open this week February 24-27. Volunteers can help with shelf setup (which takes place around 10 am), serving a simple lunch, registering guests, packing groceries, and simply being a friendly face to our clients, many of whom are hurting. If you are interested in joining the Walk-In Ministry Team, please contact Cheryl Swartz at 412-471-3436 x220 or [cswartz@fpcp.org](mailto:cswartz@fpcp.org).

### Eternal Legacy – April 5, 2025 – LCCC Spring Celebration

Join us to celebrate all that God is doing through the ministry at Ligonier Camp & Conference Center on April 5, 2025 at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center. For more information and to register visit [ligoniercamp.org](http://ligoniercamp.org).

### A Gift of Hope – April 26, 2025 – Outreached Arms Fundraiser

Join us on April 26, 2025, for "A Gift of Hope" celebration fundraiser hosted by our Ministry Partner, Outreached Arms. Tickets are on sale now! They also need volunteers and donated items to help make the event a success. Visit <https://outreachedarms.betterworld.org/events/a-gift-of-hope> for more info on tickets and how to donate. For questions, reach out to Rob at 412-600-9916.

### Items Needed for Baking Buddy Baskets

The Deacons need your help creating auction/raffle baskets for two upcoming fundraisers:

- **Ligonier Camp & Conference Center** Spring Celebration on April 5th (Basket Color Theme: Earth Tones – green, brown, silver, etc.)
- **Outreached Arms:** A Gift of Hope Celebration on April 26th (Basket Color Theme: Pastel – soft pinks, blues, yellows, etc.)

If you are able to contribute baking items, please drop them off in the Fellowship area by Sunday, **March 23rd**. To avoid duplicate items, please contact Hannah at [hotoole@fpcp.org](mailto:hotoole@fpcp.org) to let her know what you plan to purchase. Suggested items below and any other baking-related items are requested.

- Large metal mixing bowl (2 are purchased)
- Aprons (2 are handmade)
- Cookie sheet
- Cupcake pan
- Rolling pin
- Oven mitts
- Wooden spoon
- Whisk
- Measuring spoons
- Measuring cups

## First Church Staff

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### VOLUNTEER SOUND/ VIDEO TECHNICIANS

Victor Ndinyah  
Doug Williams  
Dan Conner  
David Charlton  
Brian Vertz

Our Sanctuary is open to visitors Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
*Call to Schedule a Tour!*

You can reach the Church Office Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Call: 412-471-3436 | Email: info@fpcp.org | www.fpcp.org.

### Visiting Us Today?



**Scan Code to Connect with Us!**

### Giving Online?



**Scan Code to Give!**

### Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get a sticker for your parking ticket at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). Scan both sides of the ticket at the payment booth at the **Oliver, Mellon Square**, and **Smithfield** garages to pay \$1 for parking.