

TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 7, 2019

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAY LEADER

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsively*)

LAY LEADER

The one who parted the waters to save Israel
will set our feet on dry land.

We will walk forward in faith.

The one who restored the fortunes of Zion
will fill our mouths with laughter

We will dream of life renewed.

The one who raised Jesus from the dead
will do a new thing in our lives.

We will rest in the peace of Christ.

Come, let us worship the God of our salvation.

OPENING PRAYER

LAY LEADER

Lead us, Lord, into the mystery of your presence.

As we gather in this time of worship,
free us from the fears that bind us,
that our hearts may be filled with joy
and our tongues may sing your praises.

Teach us the glory of knowing your son,
and help us know the joy that comes from loving freely.

Guide us in your ways and renew our hope,
that we may perceive signs of your Spirit
springing forth from your abundant love.

With joy-filled trust, we pray. **Amen.**

***HYMN: #74** When God Restored Our Common Life

CALL TO CONFESSION

LAY LEADER

If we ask God to restore us to the way we have been,
then we have not asked for as much as God intends to give.
God is not content simply to return or restore us to former things.
Instead, God seeks to give the gift of resurrection—
a new and abundant life.

With confidence in God's generosity,
we confess our sins and seek the new life offered in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

ALL

**Merciful One, signs of your love and compassion
surround us every waking minute of each day.
As we come before you with our quiet hopes
and our secret fears,
we long to be like those who dream.
We yearn for hearts that are filled with laughter
and for tongues that are lifted in shouts of joy.
But too often, our quiet hopes remain unspoken,
and our secret fears remain hidden away.
You alone are our hope and our salvation, O God.
Anoint us with your mercy and compassion,
that we might have the courage
to claim the life that springs forth all around us.
Transform us into people who meet doubt with hope,
and despair with determination.
In your loving mercy, we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

LAY LEADER

Hold fast to God's saving acts of old.
For the one who parted the waters for Israel
is the one who raised Jesus from the dead.
This is the one who will raise us also
from all that holds and binds us.

***GLORIA PATRI**

ALL

**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.**

***THE PEACE**

LAY LEADER

As Mary anointed Jesus with sweet smelling perfume,
let us anoint one another with the sweetness of God's love
as we share the peace of Christ *from where we stand*.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also, with you.

ANTHEM: "Remember Me" by Pepper Choplin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PASTOR

SCRIPTURE:

PASTOR

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

SERMON *"Moved to Give"*

PASTOR

***HYMN:** #201 A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

THE APOSTLES' CREED

PASTOR

(Page 35 of the GTG)

A TIME OF SHARING – JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTOR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PASTOR

(Responsively)

God our Provider,

out of your fullness you cause life to spring up in barren landscapes;

you have power to control troubled waters, making a path of safety;

you hear our cries and receive our tears;

you restore us to joy and laughter.

You have done great things for us, O God,

and are continually making all things new.

We thank you, O God:

You are making all things new.

We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ,

whose life and ministry have guided us through this Lenten season

and guides us in every season of life.

In his suffering and death,

he knows full well the troubles and pains we face in this earthly life.

In his resurrection is the hope of our own.
Surrounded by your overflowing love, we are not alone.
We thank you, O God:
You are making all things new.

With thanksgiving we celebrate your care
and the gift of newness in our lives:
for recovery from illness or injury;
for calm after a time of unrest or turmoil;
for a sense of direction after uncertainty;
for new life; for new opportunities.
We thank you, O God:
You are making all things new.

We pray for people who wait in difficult places.
For those who are suffering and those at life's end;
for people struggling with employment and financial worries;
for those estranged from loved ones;
for those trapped in the grip of addiction;
for people enduring emotional or spiritual turmoil.
Because you are able to make a way in every wilderness,
we thank you, O God:
You are making all things new.

We pray for the needs of the world.
May peace invade places of war
and justice crowd out oppression and cruelty.
Protect soldiers and citizens alike from harm's way
and make all conflict cease.
Bless leaders of communities, states, and nations,
that they may speak the truth and work with others for the common good.
Pour out healing on the earth itself,
depleted and injured by our careless consumption and intentional greed.
Comfort those devastated by natural disasters;
strengthen those supplying shelter, food, and aid.
Amid the chaos of this world, your Spirit intercedes
with sighs too deep for words.
We thank you, O God:
You are making all things new.

We pray for the church, the body of Christ in the world,
that we may proclaim your Word boldly.

Lead us, by the power of your Spirit, to witness to your truth,
for we remember and proclaim that death does not have the last word—
in our lives, in the church, or in the world.

We thank you, O God:

You are making all things new!

As we pray in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying...**Our Father...**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

LAY LEADER

Through our tithes and offerings,
we can give generously, as Mary did,
and remember the poor.

As we open wide our hands, we attend to Christ himself,
who is present especially among those considered the least and the lost.

Let us offer to God these gifts for ministry in Christ's name.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: HYMN #175 Seek Ye First**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

And His righteousness;

And all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;

Seek, and ye shall find.

Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.

Allelu, alleluia!!

You shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word

that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Allelu, alleluia!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

LAY LEADER

Abundant God:

You cause water to flow in desert places.

You give wine to flow at a wedding feast,

and food to feed five thousand on a grassy mountainside.

Your generosity astounds and humbles us.

We bow before you in gratitude and awe,

asking you to receive what we have brought in response.

May these gifts be a pleasing and fragrant offering,
for the sake of the world you came to save.
We pray in your holy name. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PASTOR

Come into the deep water of God's love.
Cast your nets into the miraculous waters of Christ's grace.
Drink of the living water,
eat of the bread of life,
for this is the table of abundant love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Responsively*)

Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our loving God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise you for your love:

bringing order out of chaos,
breathing life into dust,
leading captives into freedom,
consuming false idols with holy fire,
calling wandering children home,
giving bread to the hungry,
giving drink to the thirsty,
raising the dead to life.

Therefore, we join our voices with saints

and angels and all the faithful of every time and place, singing,

Holy, holy, holy One,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in your holy Name.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ:

Word made flesh,

light of the world,
living water,
shepherd and gate,
way and truth and life.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus
on the night before he died,
took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying,
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering your gracious acts,
we offer our lives to you in service and praise
as we keep the feast that Christ prepares:
bread of heaven,
cup of salvation,
resurrection and life.
Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Gracious God,
now pour out your Holy Spirit among us:
in this bread,
in this cup,
in your people;
one in the body,
one in the blood,
one with Christ,
one in mission,
one in ministry;
in this place,
in every place,

in this world,
in the world to come. **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

ELDERS

***HYMN:** #519 You Are My Strength When I Am Weak

CHARGE and BLESSING

PASTOR

POSTLUDE

WORSHIPPERS AND GUESTS ARE INVITED:

Join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service for refreshments and a time of fellowship.

One Great Hour of Sharing:

Townley Church will once again be participating in *One Great Hour of Sharing* on Palm Sunday, April 14th. Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through *One Great Hour of Sharing* to share God's love with people experiencing need. Your contributions to this special offering support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry, and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Please plan to contribute to *One Great Hour of Sharing* on Palm Sunday. **A special envelope will be provided today for this special offering.** No gift is too small. Thank you! Mission Division

"A Time for Prayer"

Mondays at 4:00 PM
If you can't make it to the church, take some "Time to Pray".

Nursing Home Visitation

Second Sunday of the month:
April 14, 2019
Join us at 2:00 PM at the Delaire Convalescent Center 400 W Stimpson Ave, Linden, NJ to share the Good News in word, song and presence.

Book Club

Will resume in May. "A Year of Living Biblically". Join us!

Reflections on the Lord's Prayer

A Lenten Study

- The goal of this study is for all of us to deepen our understanding of the Lord's Prayer and pray it with new energy. Lent is a period of fasting, moderation, and self-denial. During Lent, some eat sparingly or give up a particular food or habit. Why not take time this season to get closer to God through His Word? **Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM.**

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Lois Tangowski	3
Carole Gordon	9
Don Smith	12
Linda Catalano	16
Mario Rubulotta	23
Irene Schoenwalder	28

Women's Retreat, hosted by
Presbyterian Women of the First
Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge
Saturday April 13, 2019, 9:30 am-
4:00 pm

Camp Kiddle Keepwell
35 Roosevelt Dr, Edison, NJ 08837

\$25 per person includes continental
breakfast and lunch

Please RSVP by April 1st to Janet
Sangekar - 908-868-0939,

janet.sangekar@gmail.com

Spring Rummage Sale

Please mark your calendars! Townley
Church's Spring Rummage Sale will be
Friday, May 10, 2019 and Saturday May
11, 2019. Please plan to help with set-up,
clean-up and on days of the sale. It is a lot
of work and everyone's help is always
appreciated. More info to follow. If you
have any questions, please see Linda or

AKSYON KOMINOTÈ ENTÈNASYONNAL POU DEVLOPMAN OF PISTO (AKEDP)

For twenty-one years, AKEDP has provided free K-6th grade education in Pisto, Haiti to families who otherwise would not be able to send their children to school. To date, we have graduated over 3,000 children who were able to continue their academic or vocational education. The work being done makes a great difference in family's lives. Because of supporters like you, we have helped pull families out of poverty and provided hope in a hopeless situation. In addition, to educating young children, we also provide adult literacy to their parents and the community of Pisto.

This year our fundraiser goal is \$25,000.00 to renovate our facilities and expand our programs through partnerships. We are committed to providing the best education to all of our students and we know our goal is attainable because of supporters like you! This year's event will be held at Hilton Hotel Newark Airport Hotel, 1170 Spring Street, Elizabeth New Jersey 07201 on **April 27th, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.** Please see me for additional information with respect to securing tickets.

Sincerely, Feret Fenelus

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Townley's Program Task Force is spearheading a *Food Bank Sunday*, where on each 4th Sunday they will receive donations of non-perishable food items to contribute to the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. We are asking our members to support this initiative by giving one non-perishable food item (or \$1) per week. Kindly drop off your items in the **Food Box** in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

To learn more about Townley Presbyterian Church:

- Email us at: townleychurch@yahoo.com
- Call the office:
(908) 686-1028
- Visit our website: Townleychurch.org
- Like Us on Facebook: Townley Church

Ron Thompson, Pastor