

TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Third Sunday in Lent

March 24, 2019

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAY LEADER

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsively*)

LAY LEADER

Welcome to the fabulous feast that God has prepared!

We come hungry, thirsty, and searching for God.

God is near, full of power and glory.

We are here to be fed by God's word.

Lift up your hands in praise!

We will sing with joy on our lips.

Bless God, who upholds us with God's strength.

We will bless God as long as we live!

OPENING PRAYER

LAY LEADER

Faithful God, our parched spirits thirst for you.

Gathered here in your sanctuary,

may we witness again your power and glory.

Feed our hungry souls

with the food that truly satisfies.

Quench our dry mouths

and fill them with your praise.

Be known to us here,

as we seek you with our whole being. Amen.

***HYMN: #800 Sometimes a Light Surprises**

CALL TO CONFESSION

LAY LEADER

The Scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways

and return to God,

who offers mercy and pardon.

Trusting in that mercy,

let us call upon God who is near.

***Please stand if you are able**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

ALL

**Nurturing One, you invite us to feast on your word
and to be filled with your love.**

**Your banquet is always before us,
freely offered for us to enjoy,
yet we choose to spend our resources
on things that do not satisfy.**

**Forgive us when we consume the very things
that do not feed us.**

**Help us abandon our careless ways
and self-seeking schemes,
that we might return to you,
our provider and sustainer.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

LAY LEADER

God is faithful and will not allow us to be tempted beyond our abilities.

Even in our brokenness, God provides a path to wholeness.

When we confess our shortcomings,

God has mercy on us and is generous with forgiveness.

Through Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***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

Believing that God has provided a path to our wholeness,

let us share signs of His goodness as we pass the peace of Chris,

from where we stand:

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also, with you.

ANTHEM: “My Savior and My God” by Jay Althouse

***Please stand if you are able**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PASTOR

SCRIPTURE:

PASTOR

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

SERMON “*Greener Grass*”

PASTOR

***HYMN:** #484 Out of Deep, Unordered Water

A TIME OF SHARING – JOYS AND CONCERNS

LAY LEADER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
(Responsively)

LAY LEADER

God of generous provision,
we are grateful for the many ways you care for us
and provide for the needs of your people.
In word, water, bread, and wine, you nourish and sustain us.
When we listen to you, we encounter delight,
and when we come to you, we live most fully.

Sometimes, though, we find ourselves in a dry and weary land...

Where we have misused and depleted creation,
drought and famine leave people and animals facing hunger and starvation.
Where we have polluted streams, rivers, and oceans,
fish and other water creatures suffer and die.
People without access to clean water become sick.
O God, help us to care for your creation in ways that make it possible
for all to have enough food and water— life, verdant and abundant.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a dry and weary land ...

In places torn apart by war, where the earth itself has been ravaged;
where hospitals and homes and corner stores have been reduced to rubble;
where human lives have been destroyed and deformed;
where peace lies in the ruins and hope is buried.
O God, raise peace among us again.
Build hope up from the ground.
Restore in us and in the world’s leaders
the will and determination to make an end of war and a new beginning for
justice.

***Please stand if you are able**

Sometimes we find ourselves in a dry and weary land ...

When we are lost, unable to find our way to a place that is home for us;
when we are sad and weighed down with regret or grief;
when we are tired or sick in body, mind, or spirit.

O God, provide water in the desert and manna in the wilderness—
enough to sustain us for one more day,
even enough to revive us for the long haul.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the rich feast of your presence...

We celebrate a new beginning in our lives:
a new job, a new relationship, a new life,
a new day of sobriety, a second chance.

O God, we give thanks to you for this new blessing in our lives.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the rich feast of your presence ...

We give thanks for the gift of healing after injury or illness;
for laughter that bubbles up to replace our tears;
for hope that spills its soothing light over the darkness of our despair.

O God, we thank you for the gift of wholeness
and resurrection promised to us in Jesus Christ.

Sometimes we find ourselves in the rich feast of your presence ...

We enjoy the relief of forgiveness given and received;
we enjoy a breach in walls of division;
our own hearts are enlarged
and our own vision is broadened by new understanding;
we welcome a prodigal home or are ourselves welcomed home again.

O God, we thank you that you are reconciling all things in heaven and on earth.

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

LAY LEADER

Generous God, your faithful love
is a constant blessing.

As we have been blessed,
so may we now be a blessing to others.

***Please stand if you are able**

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: HYMN #606**

*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. Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

LAY LEADER

As we enjoy the rich feast you have provided,
we know that there are those who want
for food and drink.
Multiply the offerings we share today,
that they may bless those in need.
May the spiritual nourishment we receive today
strengthen us for continued service in your name.
Amen.

***HYMN: #743 O God, You Are My God**

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.

***Please stand if you are able**

PASTOR'S CORNER

Operation Warm Heart

During the coldest months, December to March, the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless sponsors an emergency shelter program called Operation Warm Heart. With the help of local churches and community groups, up to 14 homeless individuals are given clothing, toiletries, a hot meal and a warm bed each night of the week. Volunteers to help cook meals, provide hospitality or sort donations to make personal kits for each guest are always needed.

Townley has partnered with the St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church in Elizabeth to provide temporary overnight shelter for these individuals. The dates are as follows:

Tomorrow is our last night for the season.

Volunteer to greet and serve an evening meal from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Let Pastor Ron know what dates you are available. You need not volunteer for all the dates. Thank you!

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.**

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

Book Club

Meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month right after service. We are currently reading "A Year of Living Biblically". Join us!

"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:

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.

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!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

7 Cayla Kerekgyarto
12 Tom Catalano

***Please stand if you are able**