

# 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 14<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:townleychurch@yahoo.com)
- Call the office:  
(908) 686-1028
- Visit our website: [Townleychurch.org](http://Townleychurch.org)
- Like Us on Facebook: Townley Church

**Ron Thompson, Pastor**