

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
April 24, 2011 10:00 a.m.  
EASTER SUNDAY

"First Presbyterian Church of West Seneca is an inclusive community, welcoming all people to its worship and prayers, regardless of race, gender, or social status."

**PREPARATION**

"...we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord."  
-1 Cor. 4:6

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**                      *All Creatures of Our Lord And King*                      -Hopson

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP SONG** "This is The Day"

**WELCOME**

*(Welcome to all! Your presence enriches and honors us for this time of worship. Please sign the friendship pad located in your pew. If you would like to be on the pastor's weekly "Invite for Worship," leave your email address. Please write prayer requests on a pew card and pass it to the end of the pew during the opening hymn.)*

**OPENING WORDS** (Responsively)                      -From Psalm 118

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!  
Let the people say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

**The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.**

**There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:**

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

**Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.**

**PRAYER OF AWARENESS**

We pray: **Gracious and ever abiding Spirit, on this day of awakening, help us to experience anew the Presence of Your Oneness with us, today and forevermore. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**                      114      *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

\*All who are able may stand

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**We confess, Creator of us all, that we miss so much of the joy that is ours as your Sons and Daughters. We linger in fear, guilt and grievances toward others, which blind our eyes to Your Presence. We identify with our mortal bodies, blind to the realization of ourselves as One in Spirit with You. Awaken us to Life today, to the joy of eternal life, by realizing You are Within as our True Self, now and forever more. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PEACE**

Be assured today and each day that nothing separates us from the love of God; distress, betrayal, the powers of this world, and our own blindness. God loves you and me, wants to bless us with unspeakable joy! Accept and welcome it now!

## **\*GLORY BE TO THE FATHER 577**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy and Indwelling Spirit, give us open and attentive minds that as we listen for your Word, we will see beyond the written word to the Eternal Word. **Amen.**

## **READINGS**

**From the Hindu Tradition**, the Bhagavad-gita

It is not born, it does not die; having been, it will never not be; unborn, enduring, constant, and primordial, it is not killed when the body is killed. Weapons do not cut it, fire does not burn it, waters do not wet it, wind does not wither it. It cannot be cut or burned; it cannot be wet or withered; it is enduring, all-pervasive, fixed, immovable, and timeless. It is called unmanifest, inconceivable, and immutable; since you know that to be so, you should not grieve!

**From the Early Church Tradition**

Reading Colossians 3:1-4 "If you have been raised with Christ...."

Here ends the reading; **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Matthew 28:1-10 "He is not here; for he has been raised"

Here ends the reading; **Thanks be to God.**

## **ANTHEM**

*Joyous Tidings*

*-Powell*

## **TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

(Any children 3yrs –4<sup>th</sup> grade may leave for church school)

## **REFLECTIONS**

## SILENCE

**\*AFFIRMATION** "I Am One Self, United With My Creator"

**I am one Self, united with my Creator. I am at one with every aspect of creation, limitless in power and in peace. I am united and secure in light and joy and peace. I have one goal; to bring awareness of this oneness to all minds, that true creation may extend the Allness and Unity of God. Amen.**

-from the Course in Miracles, lesson 95

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** (*During the Peace, please simply turn to those near you in the seat and give a simple sign and expression of God's Peace.*)

This is a house of God. A place of peace. A place where we befriend one another. Let us greet another as a sign of God's peace and of our shared friendship.

The peace of God is here... to stay.

All **Thanks be to God.**

*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbors.*

**\*HYMN** 105 *Christ Is Alive!*

## CALL FOR THE OFFERING OF GIFT AND SELF

### THE OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** *In Paradism*

-Talmadge

**\*RESPONSE** 592 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

God is the heart of life. **And we are the heartbeat.**

May our hearts be filled with thanks and praise and songs of joy.

**We rejoice in the miracle of life and delight in our participation**

....Therefore, with all your lovers throughout the ages we praise you saying:

#2007 **Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you! My heart knows how to say to you: You are holy, Lord!**

*Prayers for the world and community:*

In the Spirit of Jesus, may we see our oneness with all, women and men, rich and poor, whatever the name or life orientation, that as we break bread and drink from the one cup, our reality may be honoured and celebrated.

We thus break and share this bread as Jesus broke and shared it.

*(The Bread is broken.)*

All: **We share it as our pledge of openness to the Spirit in our midst, and in acknowledgement of our eternal connectedness with the Spirit of Life.**

We take wine and pour it as Jesus poured it.

*(Wine poured)*

We drink as Jesus invited his friends to drink, mindful of a relationship of love and trust between ourselves and the Spirit of Life,

All: **believing as Jesus believed, that beyond pain and darkness and death, life in the Spirit continues in ways beyond our imagining.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

*The Communion*

*(All are invited to come for the sacrament. Anointing is offered for any who desire.)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*HYMN**        118    The Day of Resurrection

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** (In Unison)

**The Light of God surrounds us;**

**The Love of God enfolds us;**

**The Power of God protects us;**

**The Presence of God watches over us;**

**Wherever we are, God is. Alleluia! Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**    *Crown Him With Crowns*

*-Burkhardt*

*(The congregation treats the postlude as its closing time of worship and leaves after it is completed.)*

## **FELLOWSHIP**

Morning coffee, tea and refreshments are now served. There is no discussion group today. Pastor Dave is meeting his family for dinner!

\* \* \* \* \*

Temporary Pastor: Rev. David Persons  
 Usher: Don Schmid  
 Layreader: Sue Piersa  
 Greeters: Donna Cieslinski  
 Counters: Sue Piersa and Debbie Wilson

**SUNDAY NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Pastor Dave** wishes to thank all those who sent cards and notes of condolences during the bereavement of his father, Howard.

**We welcome all who** worship here this morning. Please join us for coffee after the worship service.

**Large print copies** of the Order of Worship, The Hymnal and the NRSV Bible are available at the back of the church.

**Phonic Ear hearing assistance** program is available. Please see an usher for more details.

**Prayer Request Cards**, located, in your pew, are for any prayer requests you wish included in the Prayers of the People. If you have a prayer request, please annotate your request on the back of the card, then pass it to the end of the pew (whichever end is closer to you) for collection by the usher during the opening hymn. Please do not place the card in the offering plate, as the card suggests. "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." *Philippians 4:6*

**CHILD CARE**

**Infant/Toddler Nursery Care** during worship is provided for your children.

**CALENDAR**

Today	- April 24	9:00 a.m.	Easter Brunch
		10:00 a.m.	Worship – <i>Easter Sunday</i>
		11:00 a.m.	Easter Brunch
Wed.	- April 27	1:00 p.m.	Arthritis Foundation Exercise program
Sun.	- May 1	10:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Communion
		11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
		11:10 a.m.	Sermon discussion in the parlor

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Members of our congregation

John Christmann ♦ Paul Rasp

Family & Friends of our congregation

Elaine Bergman (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Donna Burns (Sue Piersa) ♦ Kathy Miller Colmerauer (Jane Lankes) ♦ Dan & Judy Cravotta (Janice Jones) ♦ Pauline Deletti (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Linda Dories (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Cathy Folaron (Cheryl Wilczak) ♦ Rosanne Folaron (Cheryl Wilczak) ♦ Joy Gordon (Debbie Ball) ♦ Ed & Dorothy Gutowski (Ed Gutowski) ♦ Carolyn Halley (Marilyn Mohr) ♦ Jill Miller-Kisker (Jane Lankes) ♦ Dee Dee Labby (Cheryl Labby) ♦ Julian McCann (Donna Cieslinski) ♦ Aaron Miechurski (The Halligan's) ♦ Donald Mohr (Sandy Perillo) ♦ Mary Orofino (Marilyn Mohr) ♦ Maureen Patti (Helen Somer) ♦ Jodi Rustski (The Fischers) ♦ Elizabeth Shaffer (George Shaffer)

Service Men & Women

Russell Molnar ♦ Pat McCullough ♦ Zachery Goggins ♦ Alison Lankes ♦ Erik Brown ♦ James Schmidt ♦ Matthew Jones ♦ Kyle Ernst ♦ Mike Barnum

Each week we invite you to hold in your prayers different families and individuals in our church. As an act of faithfulness we pray for each other. This week we pray for:  
Bob & Marsha Barnhart   Bob & Kathy Doll   Nancy & Jim Kester   The Reed Family

**CHURCH NEWS NOTES**

**It's almost time** for the Paper Retriever Nationwide Paper drive. We can double our earnings in March 2011! If we meet or exceed our March 2010 recycling weights in March 2011, we will receive double our monthly earnings. So get the world out and keep on recycling.

**Please save the date!** Outreach and Mission along with the Fellowship Committee will be hosting our 3<sup>rd</sup> Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on **Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>** from **4 - 7 PM**. The proceeds from the fundraiser will be put in loose offering to remain with our church. Pre-sale tickets will be available in May. More information will be available in the near future so watch the bulletins and listen for the announcements. You can start spreading the word to your friends and family about our fundraiser and if you have any questions, you can ask Sue Piersa or Debbie Wilson.

**Attendance for April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Adult 30 – Children - 2