



**WELCOME TO THE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF BIG FLATS  
Sunday Morning Worship  
February 25, 2024 at 10:30 AM**

We're so glad you're joining us.  
*Be sure to "check in" if joining by Facebook.*

Whether you're a longtime member or a first-time guest, we invite you to explore our faith community, discover our ministries, and join us on a spiritual journey enriched by God's love and grace.

Following the Service, there will be refreshments in Fellowship Hall (*exit through the door behind the Choir Loft*). Please, come and join us and get to know others in our church.

*If you are new, please be sure to fill out the Guest Book at the back of the Sanctuary.*



**GATHER IN GOD'S NAME** <sup>i</sup>

**Joys and Concerns**

**Welcome and Announcements**

*(Stream to Facebook Live)*

**Prelude**

**\* Call to Worship**

If God is a hen,  
**we are under God's wing.**  
If God is a table,  
**we each have a seat.**  
If God is a house,  
**we are safe from the storm.**  
If God is a party,  
**we're invited to dance.**  
If God is a melody,  
**our names are the lyrics.**  
If this is God's house,  
**then all are welcomed. All are loved. All belong.**  
Let us worship Holy god.

**\* Hymn**

*Why Should I Feel Discouraged? (His Eye Is on the Sparrow)*

GTG #661

1 Why should I feel discouraged?	his eye is on the sparrow,
Why should the shadows come?	and I know he watches me.
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home, when Jesus is my portion?	I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
My constant friend is he: his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;	for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

2 “Let not your heart be troubled,”  
his tender word I hear,  
and resting on his goodness,  
I lose my doubts and fears;  
though by the path he leadeth  
but one step I may see:  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me.

I sing because I’m happy,  
I sing because I’m free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me.

3 Whenever I am tempted,  
whenever clouds arise,  
when song gives place to sighing,  
when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to him,  
from care he sets me free:  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me.

I sing because I’m happy,  
I sing because I’m free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me.

## Call to Confession

Family of faith,  
we come to confession not to wallow in our own guilt.  
Instead, we come to confession because we know that change starts with being honest.  
So in a desire to grow and change, let us pray to a God who loves us like a mother hen.  
Let us confess our sins together. . .

## Prayer of Confession

When the Pharisees tried to stop Jesus, Jesus said,  
“I will keep on.”

**I will keep on healing.**

**I will keep on teaching.**

**I will keep on preaching.**

**I will keep on flipping the tables of injustice.**

**I will keep on treating every person like a child of God. I will  
keep on believing that this world can change.**

**I will keep on**

**and keep on**

**and keep on until God’s promised day.**

**Forgive us, God, for the times when we stop. Amen.**

## Silent Confession

## Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith, because Jesus’ love just keeps going, we can trust that that love and grace exists for us. So rest in this good news:

**No matter what we do wrong or what we leave undone, we are under God’s wing. We are loved, held, and forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace**      \* *When directed, share a word or sign of peace with those near you.*

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\* *Glory be to the Father***      *Gloria Patri*

***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. Amen.***

## Prayers of the People

Please respond to “we passionately pray” by saying “**God, renew the face of the earth**”.

That Lent may bring a return to the covenant in which we love God and our neighbor as Jesus teaches, we passionately pray:

**God, renew the face of the earth.**

That Lent may be a time for truth, justice, and peace in the decisions of state, national and world governments, we passionately pray:

**God, renew the face of the earth.**

That Lent may be a time for each household to strengthen bonds of love and communication, we passionately pray:

**God, renew the face of the earth.**

One: That Lent may be a time of hope and healing of each one of us a time when we might feel the mothering love of God, as the hen who gathers her young under her wing. We lift up to you today those who we hope will feel your nurturing presence in their lives today as we lift up...we passionately pray:

**God, renew the face of the earth.**

Hear our prayers, O God, we join to them our promise to live in Jesus’ way of love. Amen.<sup>ii</sup>

## LORD’S PRAYER

**Our 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; 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.**

## Hymn

*Hear, O Lord, My Plea for Justice (Psalm 17)*

GTG #211

Hear, O Lord, my plea for justice;  
listen to my heart-felt prayer.  
In your just deliberation  
may I find redemption there.

Keep me, Lord, in sure protection,  
as the apple of your eye.  
Shelter me beneath your shadow  
when my hour of death draws nigh.

Test my heart for its affliction;  
purify my soul with fire;  
let my mortal tongue speak wisdom,  
righteousness be my desire.

In its wake, send vindication,  
to its darkness, show your face.  
Bring me to my resurrection,  
clothed in garments of your grace.

## PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, this life of ours is full to the brim.

Our days are overflowing with emails and to-do lists, schedules and notifications, assignments and deadlines. We wake up feeling behind,

we go to sleep worrying about tomorrow,  
and we know—there has to be more than this.

So we pray: bend down and show us the way.

Leave breadcrumbs in the street.

Point us toward awe and wonder.

Guide us to intimacy and trust.

Gift us with laughter that will make us cry  
and hope that will make us feel alive.

We want a new kind of full to the brim.

Show us the way. We are listening for your cues.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

## First Scripture Reading<sup>iii</sup>

Psalm 27

Pew Bible, OT, pp. 503-504

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
<sup>2</sup> When evildoers assail me  
to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—  
they shall stumble and fall.  
<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident.  
<sup>4</sup> One thing I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD,  
and to inquire in his temple.  
<sup>5</sup> For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.  
<sup>6</sup> Now my head is lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent

sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.  
<sup>7</sup> Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,  
be gracious to me and answer me!  
<sup>8</sup> “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”  
Your face, LORD, do I seek.  
<sup>9</sup> Do not hide your face from me.  
Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.  
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!  
<sup>10</sup> If my father and mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me up.  
<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD,  
and lead me on a level path  
because of my enemies.  
<sup>12</sup> Do not give me up to the will of my  
adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they are breathing out violence.  
<sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall see the goodness of the  
LORD in the land of the living.  
<sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!

## Choir Anthem

## Second Scripture Reading

Luke 13:31-35

Pew Bible, NT, pg. 77

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

**Sermon** *Full to the Brim: God Is Our Refuge*

Pastor Denise Stone

## RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*A modern paraphrase of Psalm 27*

**The Lord is my light.  
The Lord surrounds me  
like a warm, familiar quilt, in layers of grace.  
Whom shall I fear?**

**The Lord is the sturdy foundation and the roof over my head.  
I am not afraid.**

**When the world is at its worst— when grief clings to my bones,  
when fear eats at my confidence,  
when loneliness moves into my house— God sets the table,  
turns on the lights,  
and invites me to dance.**

**So even though there are days that feel like too much to bear,  
I know—I am not alone.**

**So I ask the Lord,  
I seek and I pray—  
let me live in your house all of my days. Amen.**

## **Offering**

### ***Offertory Music***

Mindful of the abundance we have received in Christ, we offer ourselves and our gifts to the world. You may also place your *Pennies From Heaven* loose change offering for Chemung County Habitat for Humanity in the jars at this time.

*Making a financial gift makes FPC Big Flats' ministries possible, including this worship service. You are invited to give generously at [www.bigflatsfirstpres.org](http://www.bigflatsfirstpres.org) (GIVE NOW button). Additionally, the White Offering basket is on the back table for donations of cash or checks. We're grateful for your support.*

## **Prayer of Dedication**

**We remember your steadfast love and mercy, which have removed our shame and drawn us into covenant with you, O God. Through these offerings we give thanks for your patience and loving-kindness. Let these offering be multiplied, even as Jesus multiplied the loaves of bread and a few fish to feed thousands, to serve our church, community and beyond. Amen.** <sup>iv</sup>

### **\* Doxology**

*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.*

## **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

### **\* Hymn**

*Lord, Make Us More Holy*

GTG #313, vv. 3 and 4

3 Lord, make us more patient;  
Lord, make us more patient;  
Lord, make us more patient,  
until we meet again:  
patient, patient, patient,  
until we meet again.

4 Lord, make us more faithful;  
Lord, make us more faithful;  
Lord, make us more faithful,  
until we meet again:  
faithful, faithful, faithful,  
until we meet again.

### **\* Benediction**

As you leave this place,  
may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world. May you laugh, and may it be contagious.  
May you overflow with love for those around you.

May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy. And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change your life.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself— go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

## **Postlude**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORSHIP SERVICE

**OUR WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINS AT 10:30 A.M.**

If you are unable to join us in-person, please join on [Facebook](#) at about 10:35 a.m.

***Be sure to "Check In" so we know you are worshipping with us!***

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077238740796>

### NOTES FOR SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

***For Online Worship:*** Please use the comment section of Facebook to share your Joys or Concerns. You may also email Pastor Denise at [pastordenisestone@gmail.com](mailto:pastordenisestone@gmail.com).

### PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

Today we will collect our loose change offering, Pennies from Heaven, benefiting the Chemung County Habitat for Humanity. The jars will be on the Communion Table for you to give during the Offering or after this Morning's Service.

### AN INVITATION FROM NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### WEEKLY WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

#### (WITH THE LORD'S SUPPER)

Will be at 7:00 pm on the following Wednesdays:

Feb. 28 March 6 March 13 March 20

921 College Ave., Elmira 607-734-2977



### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Envelopes and Brochures are available at the back of the Sanctuary. Consider giving to this worthwhile cause. We will be collecting this Offering through Easter Sunday.

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES' EMPTY BOWLS LUNCHEON

**MARCH 19, 2024, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM AT NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL**

The Missions Committee typically sponsors a table for 8.

If you are interested in attending, please see Pastor Denise today to sign up!



## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You may donate to our church or to local charities we support through our website [www.bigflatsfirstpres.org](http://www.bigflatsfirstpres.org)! Just click the **GIVE NOW** button and make your selection. You may also give through online banking or by placing your financial gift in the **white "Offering Basket"** at the back of the Sanctuary.

## COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Please join us today in Fellowship Hall / Church House for Coffee Hour.  
*The Sign-Up list for Coffee Hour is posted on the Bulletin Board.*

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, February 25	Worship – <b><i>Pennies From Heaven Collection</i></b>	10:30 a.m.
	Coffee Hour	11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, February 27	Food Pantry	10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Serving guests from 12 to 2 p.m.)
	Scouts	6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday, February 28	North Presbyterian Church Weekly Wednesday Lenten Services	7 p.m.
Friday, March 1	Church Office and Sanctuary are Open	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunday, March 3	Worship – <b><i>Communion Sunday</i></b>	10:30 a.m.
	Coffee Hour	11:30 a.m.

## First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats, New York

**Pastor, Rev. Denise Stone**

**Director of Music, Valerie Stone**

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Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077238740796>

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*His Eye Is on the Sparrow*

Author: Civilla D. Martin (1905)

Tune Information Title: SPARROW

Composer: Chas. H. Gabriel (1905)

Copyright: Public Domain

*Gloria Patri*

Tune Information

Title: GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

Composer: H. W. Greatorex (1851)

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*Hear, O Lord, My Plea for Justice*

Author: Michael Morgan (1995, rev. 2010)

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Tune Information Title: CHARLESTOWN

Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young

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*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Author: Thomas Ken (1674)

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*Lord, Make Us More Holy*  
Source: African-American traditional  
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<sup>i</sup> Unless otherwise noted, service elements are from *Words for Worship Full to the Brim SA* "Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.windsorparkunitedchurch.com/bulletin-sunday-march-13-2022-second-sunday-in-lent/>.

<sup>iii</sup> Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

<sup>iv</sup> <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bf459e05ffd207d1d6bf712/t/6036b41aae8a752078c64679/1614197786489/Bulletin+2-24-21.pdf>.