

"Do me justice against, or vindicate me from, my adversary." Luke 18:3

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

ALWAYS PRAY AND NEVER GIVE UP. **Luke 18:1**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2023**

**EBENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Mission Statement

*"Ebensburg Presbyterians
are Christians giving help
and hope to all by sharing God's love."*

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our souls wait and hope in God's word.

Hope in the Lord.

**With God there is steadfast love,
and great power to redeem.**

Our souls wait for the Lord,

more than those who watch for the morning.

*HYMN#476 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

The Lord GOD helps us; therefore, we have not been disgraced. We know that we shall not be put to shame; our redeemer is near! If it is the Lord GOD who helps us, who will declare us guilty? With confidence in God's redeeming love,

Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(Responsively)*

God of resurrection,

We know the power of death.

We have seen its works,

we have felt its sting.

**We have been to the valley of despair,
and felt like there was no chance for life.**

We do not believe in your power to resurrect.

**We do not believe in your power to redeem our pain, and
fashion something beautiful in this world. Forgive us.**

We cry from the depths—

however, faint our call may be,

we pray you hear our voice. Amen *(silent Prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: *(Responsibly)* Joel 2:13

Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful.
He is not easily angered; he is full of kindness
and anxious not to punish you. **Thanks be to God.**

*GLORIA PATRI

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST *(responsively)*

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also, with you.**
(Please share the peace of Christ with those around.)

ANTHEM

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

Dear Lord,
help us to understand the scripture we are about to read
and wisdom to discern what it encourages us to do.
Your word a light to our feet,
a healing balm to our brokenness
and a living water to nurture our soul.
Come now to us in your
Word to transform our thinking
and reshape our understanding
and inform our faith
and guide our actions
while journeying with you. Amen.

SCRIPTURES

FIRST READING: 2 Corinthians 4:1-2 Page 939

SECOND READING: Luke 18:1-8 Page 853

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

SERMON A RESOUNDING PRAYER

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMNS# 333 Seek Ye First

INVITATION AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(Matt. 6:21)*

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Almighty God,
we give you thanks for your gracious love to ward all of us and for the
strength you give us each day to persist in our faith and the witness of
your love and salvation to the world. We ask that our unity with You
be stronger through the power of the Holy Spirit and like that poor and
helpless widow, empower us to seek your face in prayers despite our
circumstances. Help us to show the world who you are by loving our
neighbors just as you loved and care for us.

May we have courage to defend the weak by speaking the truth, exercise
justice in the face of injustice, and offer hope to the hopeless that your
name may be glorified. Restore hopes in this hopeless world, bind the
wounds of the sorrowful, feed the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless
and nurture the world with peace. May the world see the love you showed
us through your Son, as Jesus faces darkness of this world in the holy week
and Christ break the chain of the tyranny of death and rose in victory to
redeem the world. Now we ask that you answer our prayers and do us justice
as we pray the prayer in unison the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:

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;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead
us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is
the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.

SENDING

HYMN# 326 Spirit of God Descend Up My Heart

BLESSING AND CHARGE *1 Peter 3:8-9*

Be compassionate and humble with one another.
Hold on to what is good,
do not return evil with evil.
Instead, bless those who curse you,
because you've been called for this purpose. **Amen.**

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

**Please stand as you are able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

One Great Hour Of Sharing

OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing) offering will be taken on Palm Sunday, April 2nd Please bring your fish box or donation

Holy Communion

Communion will be served next Sunday, April 2nd and on every first Sunday of every month.

Maundy Thursday

Service will be on Thursday, April 6th at 7PM

Good Friday Also, the Colver Church invites us to join them for their Good Friday service on Friday, April 7th at 7PM

Young Disciples

Youth Program and Confirmation Class—Sunday, March 26th

Birthday and Announcements

Gregory Stratton	March 27
Aubrey Jean Baker	April 1
Eva Tomb	April 8
Tina Taylor	April 11
Clifton J. Harris	April 13
Dan Orr	April 22
Ralph T. Shuey	April 29

Bell Choir Practice

Bell choir practices @12:00 immediately following the service.

You may join our church in one of three ways:

Transfer from another congregation.

Reaffirm your faith if you have not been an active church member recently.

Profess Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Please talk to the pastor or one of the leaders

PRAYER LIST

If you have any names, you would like added to the Prayer List, please call the church office at 472-6920 or place the names in the Offering Baskets near each of the front entrances. Thank you.

Eva Tomb
Ray McKim
Jim Estep
Ramona McKim
Candi Elam
Ben & Patricia Tuchi
Peter & Margaret Funch
Albie
Tom R.
Joe P
Erin M.
Marty F.
Claudette Segear
John Fedora
Sharon Westrick
Ruthan Noderer
Gloria P.
Mary R.
Father Pat Kirsch
Bob & Mary Clare Stofko
Richard McKim