



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 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.”

GATHERING

TOLLING OF THE HOUR: Addy Bracken

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Dear God,
You are our God; we earnestly seek
and thirst for your presence.
Our whole being long for
you in this dry and parched land of life.
Yet, we have seen your glory and your love is
greater and we glorify you.
We will praise you as long as we live
and lift our hands with
singing and our lips praise you. Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to sanctify ourselves.

We come seeking to be worthy of our call.

The Lord looks not at our outward selves,
but seeks to know what is in our hearts.

Let us learn what is pleasing to the Lord,
that we might live as children of the Most High.

*HYMN#463 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

*CALL TO CONFESSION (*responsively*)

How do we know when our actions are right?

When the fruits of our labors are good and true.

Christ is the light that exposes all we keep hidden,
but offers us healing and renewal instead of judgment.
Therefore, let us hold up our sins to Christ’s gaze

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

God of compassion and mercy,

we sometimes fail to see

what you are doing in the world.

We want you to act in ways we predict,
but we forget:

**you do what is good, not what is expected.
Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles.
Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions.
Most of all, forgive us
when we do not respond to your call,
ignoring what we need to do
to show the world your love and grace. Amen (silent Prayer)**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (*Responsibly*) *Romans 5*
Jesus restores our souls
and leads us in right paths for his name's sake.
**Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow us all the days of our lives,
and we will dwell in the house of the Lord
our whole lives long.**

*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: (*responsively*)
Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word
through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,
so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURES

FIRST READING: Ephesians 5:8–14 Page 951
SECOND READING: John 9:1–41 Page 871-72

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

SERMON AWAKE AND RISE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMNS#69 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (*Adapted from the Confession of 1967*)

**The reconciling work of Jesus
was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.
His cross and resurrection become personal crisis
and present hope for women and men
when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.
In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all,
moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience,
and initiates the new life in Christ.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING *Matthew 6:21*
Jesus says: Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of grace,
you have gifted us with life in Christ. Today we bring the gifts of
our work and the gifts of our hearts. May all that we bring and
all that we are be your means of grace in the world,
that all people may encounter your good news. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest
who knows our weakness and suffering; therefore, with boldness,
let us seek God's grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church . . .
By your grace, make us children of light,
reflecting the glory of our Savior—
Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . .
Renew in us a vision of the world restored,
shining with the splendor of your glory,
unstained by the sin of human greed.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . .
Raise up new leaders among us,
new shepherds who will defend the weak
and lead us all in paths of peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
With boldness, we pray for this community . . .
Help us to notice our neighbors in need.
Give us the courage and compassion
to see them all as your beloved children.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . .
Accompany those who walk in darkness;
protect those who are facing danger;
comfort those who live in fear.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers,
knowing that you alone can provide
grace to help in our time of need;
in the name of our great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior,
who taught us to pray saying:
**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, a
s 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.**

HYMN#324 Open My Eyes, That I May See

BLESSING AND CHARGE *2 Cor. 13:14*
May the steadfast love of God,
the abundant grace of Jesus Christ,
and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit
be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

One Great Hour Of Sharing

Please take your fish bank today
for OGHS (One Great Hour of
Sharing) on Palms Sunday,
April 2nd

Bible Study Program

Please join us for a Bible Study on
Wednesday @7pm. In-person
or/zoom

Young Disciples

Youth Program and Confirmation
Class—Sunday, March 26th

Birthday and Announcements

Debra Shamble	March 20
Mara Vermillion	March 21
Samuel Wheeler	March 22
Gregory Stratton	March 27

Bell Choir Practice

We will start bell choir practices
from Sunday February 5th. Prac-
tice starts at 12:00 immediately
following the service.

Pastoral Care – Pastor Owar
will be on a study leave and will
be out of the office between
March 14 thru, March 21, 2023.
Please contact Jim Stratton or one
of the Elders for pastoral need
while Rev. Ojulu is away.

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

Year 2023 New Prayer Lists be-
gins. If you have any names to
add to the Prayer List, please call
the church office at 472-6920,
send email to [ebgpres-
by@gmail.com](mailto:ebgpres-by@gmail.com) 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