



*Sunday Worship  
February 4, 2024  
Draw near to God  
for God is waiting for you.*

\* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able  
*italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation*

***PRELUDE***

***\*CALL TO WORSHIP***

*Come, rejoice and sing! God's love is showered over you this day.*

**We gather to praise God and celebrate God's presence with us.**

*God shows compassion to all who are weak and downtrodden.*

**Jesus Christ offers healing mercies to our troubled souls.**

*Praise be to God who has called us here.*

**Thanks be to God for God's eternal love.**

***\*OPENING PRAYER***

**Powerful God, from the very beginning you blessed creation. You have loved and shielded your people through all joys and trials of life. We come to you this day, rejoicing in the many blessings you have given to us. We open our hearts again to hear your word for us and to gather strength and joy for service in your world. Be with us and bless us again, we pray. Amen.**

***\*HYMN #386*** Come, Worship God

1. Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor; enter God's presence with thanks and a song!  
You are the rock of your people's salvation to whom our jubilant praises belong.

2. Ruled by your might are the heights of the mountains; held in your hands are the depths of the earth.  
Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them, God above all gods, who gave us our birth.

3. We are your people, the sheep of your pasture; you are our Maker, and to you we pray.  
Gladly we kneel in obedience before you; great is the one whom we worship this day!

4. Now let us listen, for you speak among us; open our hearts to receive what you say.  
Peace be to all who remember your goodness, trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!

***CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION***

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENESS***

God of Steadfast Love and Mercy, we confess that at times we give up. It's all too much. It's too hard. There's too much suffering and pain and loss. Too much grief. Too many balls to keep in the air, too many responsibilities, too many bills. Sometimes the world just feels so heavy. We confess that we need to know your love more deeply, O God, and we call upon you to remind us of your love. Help us to turn to one another in our time of need. Remind us that you have called forth not only ministers but teachers, doctors, mental health professionals, coaches, and others, for seeking our physical and mental well-being is as important as our spiritual care. You have called us to love you with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. May we remember most of all that we are not alone. In your name we pray. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING***

... Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.

***\*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.

***OLD TESTAMENT LESSON*** Isaiah 40:21-31

***SPECIAL MUSIC***

Holy, Holy, Holy  
Handbell Choir accompanied by Maggie Realley, organist

John Purifoy

***TIME WITH THE CHILDREN***

***\*HYMN #43*** On Eagle's Wings

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life, say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

*REFRAIN:* And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

2. The snare and the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear: under his wings, your refuge, his faithfulness your shield. *REFRAIN*

3. You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day: though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. *REFRAIN*

4. For to his angels he's given a command to guard you in all your ways; upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. *REFRAIN*

***NEW TESTAMENT LESSON*** Mark 1:29-29

***SERMON*** The Wideness of God's Mercy

***CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP***

***OFFERTORY***

***\*DOXOLOGY***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION***

You lift us to our feet so we can walk with you, Loving God, and you fill us with your gifts so we may pour them out for those around us. Take what we offer and use them in that kingdom work which strengthens the weary, feeds the hungry, and gives hope to the despairing. Amen.

***ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS***

## ***SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS***

### ***INVITATION TO COMMUNION***

#### ***GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING***

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***SHARING THE ELEMENTS*** (please hold the bread and then the cup so that we all commune together showing our unity in Christ)

#### ***UNISON PRAYER***

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #435** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea. There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

2. For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind. And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word, and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

**\*BENEDICTION**

#### ***POSTLUDE***

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

**This week's carillon is in memory of Lottie Reif. Lottie was our Financial Secretary for many years. She lived in Forest Grove.**

**YOUTH GROUP:** Tonight, we are going bowling at Thunder Lanes: 1475 West Street Rd. Warminster, PA 18974. We have a reservation! Meet us there at 6:30pm. Cost is \$11.00 (food is extra). Talk to Pastor Su or Missi Dell'Orefice if you need a ride.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Join us on Monday February 5 at 9:30 am. This will be an in-person study but will also be available on Zoom. Pastor Su will lead the discussion on Paul's letter to the Philippians. Friends are also welcome. Coffee will be provided.

**FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP:** All invited to gather Friday, February 9, 2024 at 6:00pm. Please note this is a change in the date and time. Our theme is "Mardi Gras." In anticipation of Lent, this will be a Pancake Supper prepared by the Youth Group. Bring a friend or neighbor. Our mission project will be to make tied fleece blankets. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Susan at the office to sign up 215-794-8575

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:** This week we are asking for the following items: Canned potatoes, corn, vegetables and hearty soup. Donations are to be placed in the wagon located in the vestibule.

**SCOUT SUNDAY:** Next Sunday February 11, we will celebrate our Boy Scout Troop 71 during service. This will be a very special service and will include the Court of Honor for Sam Holton's Eagle award.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** VBS will be held once again at Anchor Presbyterian Church on June 24-28, 9:00 – noon. Registration for those ages 3 yrs. – 6<sup>th</sup> grade will begin on February 19. Teen helpers (7<sup>th</sup> – 12 grade) as well as adult leaders are needed. Please contact Pastor Su if you would like to help.

**SUMMER CAMP AT JOHNSONBURG:** Registration for summer camp programs at the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center at Johnsonburg is open. There are lots of great options for kids from 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Learn more at <https://www.campjburg.org/>. Forest Grove Church has a long-standing commitment to camping ministry by making camping available to all. Scholarships are always given for this powerful faith-nurturing experience. Let Pastor Su know if your child will be attending.

<b>Calendar:</b>	February 4	10:00 am	Worship and Fellowship
		4:00 pm	Iglesia Pentecostal Asamblea De Dios Worship Service
		6:30 pm	Youth Group - Bowling
	February 5	9:30 am	Bible Study
		11:00 am	Parish Life Meeting.
		7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 71 meeting
	February 7	12:00 pm	Bring your Brown bag lunch for Fellowship
	February 9	6:00 pm	Friday Night Fellowship – Pancake Supper

**Elder of the month:** Amy Raab

**Deacon of the month:** Louise Stemplewicz

**Ushers:** Gerry and Louise Stemplewicz

**Fellowship:** Leanne Yerkes

**Communion Servers:** Donna Jencks, Maggie Rash and Louise Stemplewicz

***In our thoughts and prayers:***

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari, Jim Turner, Violet Sanders,  
Mary Lou Humlhanz, Pat Pizza, Kara Holton, Becky Schroeder,  
Wes Schroeder, Eloise Hyndman

Please hold the Albert family in prayer as they mourn the loss of Delores Albert on January 31, 2024. *Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying."*



**Church Staff**  
**Susan Fall, Pastor**  
**Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music**  
**Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator**  
**Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager**

