**First Presbyterian Church**

A religious text with a candle and a cross

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Mission Awareness Sunday, April 27th, 2025**

**The 2nd Sunday of Easter** with **Baptism**

Minister:  **The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr**

Director of Music: **Kathleen Howard**

Reader:**Janet LeBrun -** M.O.V.E. Committee Chairperson

**Mark Leslie** and **Quentin Robinson**

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**Welcome to worship!** Thank you for joining us from wherever you are! In-person services of worship continue, with online options available for those who are more comfortable worshipping from home.

**Information for In-Person Worship**

**\* ACCESSIBLE WASHROOM FACILITIES** for all people are available **on the Sanctuary level**. These washrooms are found through the doors behind the Choir Loft - right turn - straight ahead. Please feel free to use these washrooms whenever necessary!

**\* CHILDREN’S MINISTRY –** TheChildren are invited to join Denise Kent, our C.E. Coordinator, and volunteers, in the Church School Room off the Church Hall, for a time of fun and faith-centered activities, following the Baptism this morning.

**\* HEARING IN THE SANCTUARY -** First Church has available a system of FM RECEIVERS and HEADSETS. They are for use by those who find it difficult to hear in the Sanctuary. If you would like to use one this morning, visit our Sound Technician.

\* **COFFEE HOUR** – Due to the Sunday Supper today, there is **NO COFFEE HOUR** this morning. Please join us next Sunday, May 4th, in the Church Hall, for coffee, treats and great conversation following worship. To volunteer to host, bake, or bring food to any coffee hour call Tamara Chapman.

**ASSISTING YOU THIS MORNING**

Greeter: **Janet LeBrun** Elevator: **Francis LeBrun**

Sound and Video Team **– Quentin Robinson, Kade LeBrun**

**Michel LaBonte and Mark Leslie**



**\*** Our website and social media accounts:

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**\*** **Cogeco/Channel 10/700 Services** every Sunday at 7 am. and 5:30 pm.

**\* For pastoral care or assistance**, please call the Church Office at 613-345-5014 or 613-340-3310. You may also call or text Reverend Marianne at 613-449-5042.

***the people of God gather….***

**The Organ Prelude** **Allegretto** *Antonio Vivaldi*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship God**

Minister: God welcomes us here!

**People:    And we welcome others!**

Minister:    God knows and loves us!

**People:    And we know and love others!**

Minister:    God seeks the lost and the outcast!

**People:    And we seek the lost and outcast!**

Minister:    In this place, we will praise God for God’s care of us!

**People:    In this place, we will worship.**

**Opening Hymn # 748:** **Lord of all hopefulness** *Words & Music: Public domain*

**1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,**

**whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,**

**be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,**

**your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,**

**whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,**

**be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,**

**your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**3. Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,**

**your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,**

**be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,**

**your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,**

**whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,**

**be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,**

**your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

**Prayer As We Approach God**

Minister: God of yesterday, today, & tomorrow, we rejoice in this new day you have made.

**All: We praise you for the abundant life with which you bless us, and for all the beauty that surrounds us as spring takes hold again.**

Minister: We praise you for your Son, Jesus, and the power of new life promised in his resurrection.

**All: We praise you for your Spirit at work in human history, to restore and redeem our hope with that power of new life.**

Minister: God of steadfast love, we worship you with the Spirit and the Son, and claim your gift of new life,

**All: even in the face of any doubt or danger within the world you love. All praise, honour and glory be yours, O God, now and evermore. Amen.**

**The Chancel Choir** **Meekness and Majesty** *Graham Kendrick*

*arr. Jack Schrader*

**Prayer of Confession**

Minister: O God of might and mercy, in raising Jesus from the dead, you showed us your power to defeat all that brings fear and sorrow to our lives.

**All: In his resurrection, Jesus promised to be with us everywhere and always. Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain about your promises. We doubt the promise of resurrection for our own lives. Upheaval and anxiety eat away at our peace. Forgive us when we struggle to trust your goodness and your steadfast love for us. Help us to turn towards you and** y**our people again. Help us to see your grace at work in the world. May we learn to praise you for your care today and always. Amen.**

**Assurance of God’s Forgiveness**

Minister: Jesus said, come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God’s gifts to you this day. Be renewed by the power of the Spirit that moves with you into each new day.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptismal Hymn # 521: **Child of blessing, child of promise**

*Words: Ronald S. Cole-Turner – Music: STUTTGART*

**1. Child of blessing, child of promise,**

**baptized with the Spirit’s sign,**

**with this water God has sealed you**

**unto love and grace divine.**

**2. Child of love, our love’s expression,**

**love’s creation, loved indeed!**

**Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,**

**into joy and laughter lead.**

**3. Child of joy, our dearest treasure,**

**God’s you are; from God you came.**

**Back to God we humbly give you;**

**live as one who bears Christ’s name.**

**4. Child of God your loving Parent,**

**learn to know whose child you are;**

**grow to laugh and sing and worship,**

**trust and love God more than all.**

Announcement

Minister: Baptism is a gift from God. With visible signs and words of promise, God moves toward us to claim us as children of the new covenant and members of the household of God. In baptism, God acts to unite us to Christ, to deliver us from the power of sin and death and call us into a new life of growth and service. In the sacrament of baptism, the church recognizes God’s covenant of grace. We receive God’s gift with reverent joy and respond in faith and obedience.

Remember the words of Peter on the day of Pentecost: *“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, and for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls.*”

By the waters of baptism and in the power of the Holy Spirit, God claims us and calls each one of us by name. God unites us to Christ in his death and resurrection and grafts us into the body of Christ as members of the church. God washes us clean by forgiving our sin; commissions us to be a royal priesthood with Christ in his ministry to the world; empowers us to live in newness of life as people of the Word; and invites us to be renewed at the Lord’s table until we feast with him in glory. By grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.

The Presentation

Minister: Who comes to receive the gift of baptism?

Debbie LaBonte (FPC Elder): On behalf of Session, I present **Annita Jean Marie Bean**, child of Cynthia Ouellette and Devon Bean, to receive the sacrament of baptism. I also present Tiffany Bissonnette Reed and Arthur Reed, godparents to Annita.

Minister: Cynthia and Devon, do you desire Annita to be baptized?

**Parents: We do.**

Renunciation and Affirmation

Minister: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God who has been faithful to us in all generations, do you turn away from sin, renounce all evil powers in the world which rebel against God or oppose God’s rule of justice and love?

**Parents: We do.**

Minister: Do you renounce the ways of sin which separate you from the love of God?

**Parents: We do.**

Minister: Do you turn to Jesus Christ, accepting him as Lord and Saviour, trusting in his grace and love?

**Parents: We do.**

Minister: Do you desire, in dependence on the Holy Spirit, to mature as Christians in the church, to seek the guidance of Christ as you listen for his Word, to celebrate his death and life at the table he provides, and to engage in his mission to the world?

**Parents: We do.**

Minister: Do you promise to raise Annita in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, within the home, and the fellowship of the church?

**Parents: We do.**

Affirmation of the Congregation

Minister: Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Annita, by word and deed, with love and in prayer, encouraging her to follow the way of Christ, and to be a faithful member of the church?

**Congregation: We do.**

Profession of Faith

Minister: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

Minister: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, from where he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Minister: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise**.

Minister: We give you thanks, O gracious God, for the gift of your Spirit and the sign of water. In the beginning, when your Spirit moved over the waters, you gave order and life to your planet earth. By the waters of the flood, you cleansed the world and established with Noah and his family a new beginning for all people. In the time of Moses, you led your people out of slavery through the waters of the sea, making covenant with them in a new land. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ, who was formed in the water of a woman’s womb.

Gracious God, by the gift of water and your Holy Spirit, you sustain all life.

*The minister takes the pitcher of water and pours the water into the font.*

Minister: By the power of your Holy Spirit, by the sign of this water, you cleanse from sin through the death of Jesus Christ, those who receive this sacrament; you raise them to new life through his resurrection, and you graft them into his body, the church. Pour out your Holy Spirit onto this little girl, that she may have power to do your will and continue forever as a servant of Christ to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory now and forever. Amen.

The Act of Baptizing

Minister: Annita Jean Marie Bean, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit of God dwell in you and uphold you, now and forever. Amen.

*The minister takes the child down through the congregation.*

*When the minister returns to the front of the sanctuary, the minister says:*

Annita Jean Marie, you are now received by Christ’s appointment into the holy catholic church. Through baptism, God has made you a member of the household of God to share with Christ in the priesthood of all believers. Be one with us in the church.

Presentation of the Baptismal Certificate

The Aaronic Blessing

**All: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you his peace.**

***to hear God’s word….***

**Prayer for Insight and Understanding**

Janet: Let us pray. Loving God, by the power of your Spirit, open our hearts to receive your Word speaking through the Scriptures. Reveal your truth for our lives and our times, through Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Amen.

**Psalm 139: 1-18** and **23-24** (read responsively)

Janet: You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

**All: You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.**

Janet: You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

**All: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is so high that I cannot attain it.**

Janet: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

**All: If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

Janet: If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me and the light become night around me,”

**All: even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

Janet: For it was you who formed my inward parts. You knit me together in my mother’s womb.

**All: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**

Janet: How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

**All: I try to count them - they are more than the sand – I come to the end - I am still with you. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.**

**Reading from Scripture:** **Matthew 8: 1 - 4** *New International Version (NIV)*

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Janet: **Jesus heals a man with Leprosy**

When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. Then Jesus said to him, “See that you do not tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

Janet: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God within us, and for the word of God around us. **People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Chancel Choir:** **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross** *arr. Hal H. Hopson*

**The Meditation** **Seeing the Divine In Each Other**

“Namaste”. Some of you may be familiar with this word – I know I have heard it used as a greeting in yoga classes. Although it is Hindu in origin, “namaste” is used by people throughout the Indian subcontinent. It can simply mean, “I bow to you.” It can also mean, “The divine in me bows to the divine in you,” or “The sacred in me recognizes the sacred in you.”

“Namaste” is said with hands at prayer position at heart or forehead, and a slight bow is offered as the word is spoken. Every room entered, every meeting begun, every arrival at a home begins with “Namaste.” In a sense, “namaste” recognizes each other’s common humanity and divine spark to bring us together. Before we do or say or offer anything, we are being greeted as sacred. Before we receive or hear or act, we are extending peace and grace, the same peace and grace that Jesus Christ extended to us through his death and resurrection.

John Calvin wrote that we are all engraved with the marks of God’s glory. When we read Psalm 139 this morning, we are reminded that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, engraved with the marks of God’s glory. God knows us inside and out. God hems us in, behind and before, and knows the words on our tongue before they are said. This is true of us, and it is also true of our neighbours.

Presbyterian World Service & Development, supported by congregations and the Women’s Missionary Society, supports several projects and initiatives in the country of Nepal. One of the longer-term efforts assists the Shining Hospital (in partnership with International Nepal Fellowship), which provides exceptional care to patients suffering with leprosy in difficult circumstances. While the hospital’s resources are few, there is great love and healing. There is medicine. There is physical therapy. There is treatment. But most of all, there is the recognition of God’s handiwork in every patient. Their work resembles what Jesus did in our gospel lesson for today.

We hear from the Gospel of Matthew that Jesus came down from the mountain, and large crowds followed him - hungry, hopeful, and human. In their midst was a man whose very presence should have cleared his path, a man marked by disease and shame. We know from the biblical witness that people who suffered from leprosy in ancient times were considered unclean and often cast out of their families and communities. In fact, the word leper is now often used to mean someone who is a social outcast, rather than someone who has the medical tradition. In this story, for this man, leprosy had not only ravaged his body but stolen his dignity. In the eyes of his society, he was unclean, unworthy, untouchable. But he came anyway. Somehow, hope had survived in his heart. Kneeling before Jesus, he did not plead. He simply asked. "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

It was not just a cry for healing. It was a confession of faith. He did not question Jesus’ power. He questioned his willingness. And Jesus, in one simple, earth-shattering gesture, answered both his question and his soul - he *touched* him. Before the words came, before the healing flowed, Jesus stretched out his hand and *touched* the man no one dared to touch. It was not a necessary step for the miracle - but it was necessary for the message. This was not just about healing; it was about *belonging*. About *being seen*. About *being loved*. And then Jesus said, “I am willing. Be clean!” For that man, being clean meant more than just being free from leprosy. It meant that the man would be able to rejoin his family, have work, participate in the religious life, and become a member of the community again.

That moment, that touch, was a mission statement. Jesus was declaring the kind of kingdom he was building - one where the outcast is embraced, where the wounded are welcomed, and where healing is not just physical, but personal and profound. This remains the dream and the wish of those who have leprosy today. In the Shining Hospital, patients young and old, men and women, also want to rejoin their communities and find life abundant.

And that dream is within reach for people with leprosy today in Nepal. But, because there is still a stigma attached to leprosy, many sufferers are still reluctant to seek treatment. The Shining Hospital works to break down that stigma, recognizing each patient’s dignity and humanity, touching people that society deems “untouchable”, greeting and welcoming them with the word “namaste”.

If we are to follow Jesus, if we are to go down the mountain into the messiness of the world, we must be willing to touch the untouchable. As mission is not just to proclaim the Gospel with our lips but to demonstrate it with our lives. There are still lepers among us - not just in disease, like the patients at the Shining Hospital, but in despair. Those who are isolated. Those who are forgotten. Those who are struggling with mental illness, poverty, and substance use disorders. Those whom our culture deems unworthy of love, dignity, or attention. They sit in silence, hoping for someone to see them, to say, “I am willing.”

Are we willing? Mission is not about grand gestures or distant lands alone, although the work being done by PWS&D and the Women’s Missionary Society in places like Nepal is certainly important! It is also about us stretching out our hands, wherever we are, in simple, sacred moments of compassion. It is about meeting people where they are, in the fullness of their need and the truth of their pain.

So today, as we reflect on the work of the Presbyterian Church in Canada on this Mission Awareness Sunday, let us ask ourselves: Who in our world needs the touch of Christ through our hands? Who waits in silence for someone to say, “I am willing?

The work of Presbyterian partners in Nepal is helping patients with leprosy regain dignity, health, and community. With Jesus, let us say, “I am willing.” With our neighbours, friends, and strangers, let us recognize that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made, and acknowledge the sacred, the divine, in each other. “Namaste”. Amen.

**Blessing the Word in our Lives**

Minister: God writes the ways of life on our hearts. Look inside and trust what is written there. Live as those whose hearts are pure. Love as those whose love is sure. Amen.

**Hymn # 645:**  **Follow me, the Master said** *Words & Music: Public domain*

**1. “Follow me,” the Master said: we will follow Jesus.**

**By his word and Spirit led, we will follow Jesus.**

**Still for us he lives to plead, at the throne will intercede,**

**Offers help in time of need; we will follow Jesus.**

**2. Should the world and sin oppose, we will follow Jesus.**

**He is greater than our foes: we will follow Jesus.**

**On his promise we depend; he will hear us and defend,**

**help and keep us to the end; we will follow Jesus.**

**3. Though the way may dark appear, we will follow Jesus.**

**He will make our pathway clear; we will follow Jesus.**

**In our daily round of care, as we plead with God in prayer,**

**with the cross which we must bear, we will follow Jesus.**

**4. Ever keep that end in view; we will follow Jesus.**

**All his promises are true; we will follow Jesus.**

**When this earthly course is run, and the Master says, “Well done!”**

**life eternal we have won; we will follow Jesus.**

***Responding in love with thanksgiving***

**Prayers of the People, the Lord’s Prayer and Choral Amen**

Mark: O God, we pause this morning to give thanks for the divine spark found within all of creation. We thank you for the beauty of the season and the new life that is springing up all around us. We thank you for the work being done in the fields and farms in our area, and for the faithfulness of farmers and agricultural workers who work to feed us. We thank you for our hospitals, schools, and mental health agencies that work so hard to bring health and healing in our community. We thank you for the ministries of our church, and for the leaders of this congregation. We thank you for the Brockville Presbyterial, the Synodical of Quebec and Eastern Ontario, and the Women’s Missionary Society National Council. We thank you for the WMS’s one hundred and ten years of mission and ministry in Canada and the world. We give thanks for your care of us in this place.

We also pause to pray for our world. We pray for countries and regions that are in conflict, especially remembering the innocents of Afghanistan, Gaza, Ukraine, Yemen, Venezuela, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan. We pray for places devastated by natural disaster and the destructive impacts of climate change.

We pray for friends and neighbours who are struggling with illness and for those of our congregation who are not able to travel to church any longer. We are grateful for the ways that our services can be broadcast to those who are unable to attend in person, so they may know that they are remembered and loved. We pray for organizations who are working to feed and support people in our community who are struggling, including our local food banks, Loaves & Fishes, Sunday Supper ministries, the Cooperative Care Centre and the Pathways Cabins, and all those agencies supporting the most vulnerable. We pray for ministries which stretch their care around the world, including Presbyterian World Service & Development, the Women’s Missionary Society, and faith-based agencies with whom we partner, such as KAIROS Canada, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and the Humanitarian Coalition.

Today, we pause to pray for Nepal. We pray for our global partner INF Nepal, in its work with the most marginalized people in the country. We pray for safety and protection for all from earthquakes and landslides. We pray for Shining Hospital and the patients who are being treated for leprosy. We pray for physicians, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and health care workers who are joining Jesus in his healing work. We pray for outpatient and support groups, who help those with leprosy gain new livelihoods and support their families. We pray for our sisters and brothers in Nepal and around the world, that they would know life abundant. O God, may we pause for prayer throughout the week ahead, until we are gathered again, and can pray together in Jesus’ name. who taught his disciples to pray, saying:

**All: 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.**  **Lead us not into temptation,** **but deliver us from evil,** **for thine is the kingdom, and the power,** **and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**The People’s Offering for the Work of Christ’s Church**

**Invitation to the Offering**

Quentin: Jesus said to the man with leprosy, “I am willing.” Jesus looked at the man and the world with compassion and grace. We too are able to respond to a call for help with, “I am willing.” May we offer our gifts in the promise that they will offer compassion and grace in the world.

You can give…..

**\*** by pre-authorized remittance (**P.A.R.**) (<https://presbyterian.ca/plannedgiving/pre-authorized-remittance-par-program/>). Contact the Church Office.

**\*** by **e-transfer** to [firstkirk@truespeed.ca](mailto:firstkirk@truespeed.ca)

**\*** by **mail** to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 885, 10 Church Street, Brockville, Ont., K6V 5W1

**Offering Praise Song # 79**

**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.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

Quentin: O God, receive these gifts of our hands and hearts to make the world a more just and compassionate place for all. We pray especially this morning for the work of the WMS (Women’s Missionary Society), PWS&D (Presbyterian World Service and Development) and our partner in Nepal – INF (International Nepal Fellowship). May their work in eradicating leprosy, supporting sustainable agriculture, and providing education to children and youth be furthered through our gifts. May we continue to respond with Jesus words, “I am willing.” In his name we pray. Amen.

**Sending Hymn # 764:** **There’s a spirit in the air**

*Words: Brian A. Wren ©1995 Hope Publishing CCLI License # 20312607/20312614*

*Music: John W. Wilson ©1979 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License # 20312607/20312614*

**1. There’s a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:**

**“Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world!”**

**2. Lose your shyness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done:**

**God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow’s life today!**

**3. When believers break the bread, when a hungry child is fed,**

**praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.**

**4. Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right:**

**God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow’s life today!**

**5. When a stranger’s not alone, where the homeless find a home,**

**praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.**

**6. May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.**

**God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow’s life today!**

**7. There’s a spirit in the air, calling people everywhere:**

**praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.**

**Benediction** and **Choral Amen**

Quentin: Beloved in Christ: Go forth in joy!

**All: We have God’s kingdom in our hearts**.

Quentin: Go forth in love!

**All: Let us live, ministering in love, for the Lord.**

Quentin: Go with hope and forgiveness!

**All: Let us share the grace of God, which sustains us all.**

Quentin: Go forth in peace and light!

**All: Let us be the light of Christ in a bleak and uncertain world.**

Quentin: As you go forth today, may the grace of our Saviour Jesus Christ, the love of God our divine Parent, and the delight and gladness of the Holy Spirit be with you today and always. Christ is risen! Amen.

**The Organ Postlude** **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee** *arr. Hal. H. Hopson*

Supported by Presbyterians Sharing and generous donations, a dedicated team brings the hope of Jesus to people in 24 prisons in Malawi. Overcrowding and underfunding means a lack of basic necessities. Stigma associated with imprisonment can result in abandonment by families and communities, leaving many feeling isolated and alone. Through weekly visits that include Bible study, prayer, and counselling, as well as monthly distribution of necessities such as bed mats, soap, toiletries, clothing, medicines and meal supplements for the most vulnerable, the Friends of Prisons ministry brings friendship and hope to prisoners. *A Mission Moment from The PCC*

A person standing in front of a large crowd

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A person standing in front of a mountain

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**First Presbyterian Church**

**APRIL CALENDAR**

**LOAVES & FISHES SUNDAY -** 1st Sunday of each month

**CRAFT & CHAT -** Tues. afternoons - Parlour – 1 to 4 pm.

**FPC HAND BELL CHOIR -** Thursday Afternoons at 4:30

**FPC CHANCEL CHOIR –** Thurs. Afternoons - 3 pm.

Choir Rm; Sun. Mornings - 9:30 am. - Choir Rm

**SUNDAY SUPPER MINISTRY -** 4th Sunday of each month

**Happy Birthday to:**

(**April 20th to May 3rd**)

**GARY MURRAY – Apil 20th**

**MICHEL LABONTE – Apil 21st**

**STEVE LACELLE – Apil 21st**

**ADA SWANK – April 23rd**

**MARY WYLIE – April 27th**

**QUENTIN ROBINSON – April 27th**

**IAN JOHNSTON – April 29th**

**SANDRA KELLY – April 30th**

**HUGH BATES – May 3rd**

**ONGOING PROJECTS:** **Grocery Bags, Egg Cartons,** **Pop Cans** (Maintenance)**, Breakfast Bags** (Food Bank)**, Sunday Supper Ministry**

**COMMUNITY GROUPS using the Church Building:**

EMBERS/GUIDES – Monday Evenings at 6 pm. in the Hall

DSLG Cooking Class - Thursday mornings – Thursday afternoons; DSLG Cricut Group - Tuesday afternoons

BGH DAY HOSPICE – Wednesday Mornings & Afternoons in the Parlour and Church Hall.

April 27 **MORNING WORSHIP - (Mission Awareness Sunday)** – Baptism - Coffee Hour in the Hall. Reverend Marianne leads worship at the Wedgewood.

April 28 **Federal Election Polling Station** – Full Day in the Church Hall.

May 04 **HOLY HUMOUR SUNDAY (3rd Sunday of Easter) -** 11 am. in the Church Hall.

Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

May 06 **Meeting of the M.O.V.E. Committee** – 10 am. in the Church Hall.

May 11 **MORNING WORSHIP (4th Sunday of Easter) -** 11 am. in the Sanctuary

Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

May 15 **Meeting of the SESSION** – 7 pm. in the Red Room.

May 18 **MORNING WORSHIP (5th Sunday of Easter) -** 11 am. in the Sanctuary

Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

***Highly populated WiFi environments: Isn't that an interesting phrase? Guess what, with all the "wireless" mics, page turners, tablets and other equipment in the sanctuary, this has become a "highly populated WIFI environment". Add to that everyone who walks in with a cell phone, and we have a problem maintaining connections. You can help by turning off any cell phone, Bluetooth or other WiFi device you have in the sanctuary if possible. (Not just muting but actually turning off). Thank you.***



**Office Hours** – April 28th to May 2nd

**Mon., April 28th – 10 am. to 11:25 & 1 pm. to 4:30 pm  
Tuesday, April 29th –** **1 pm. to 4:30 pm.**

**Wednesday, April 30th –** **10 am. to 4:30 pm.**

**Thurs., May 1st – 10 am. to 11:45 & 1:15 pm. to 4:30 pm  
Friday, May 2nd – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.**

**MUSIC FESTIVAL ENTRIES**

**Sunday, April 27th**

BrockvilleArts Hub @ St. John’s Church

7:30 pm – Marianne Emig Carr – Folk Songs

7:55 pm – Marianne Emig Carr – Sacred Music

8:30 pm – Marianne Emig Carr – Stage & Film

**Monday, April 28th**

**Band Workshop**

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

280 Ormond Street

7 pm – Brockville Concert Band

*(Michel LaBonte is part of the band!)*

**Friday, May 2nd**

BrockvilleArts Hub @ St. John’s Church

10:35 am – Zoey Burke – Baroque Repertoire

*(Zoey is a student of Kathleen Howard!*

*She is also granddaughter of Roger & Bonnie Burke.)*

**Please attend their classes**

**and support our musicians!**

**GRACEFIELD CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

A poster for a concert

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Summer registration for camp is now open! More information about Gracefield and the summer camping schedule is available in the CHALLENGE or visit

**TO BE GIVEN AWAY!!**

(Owners moving to a new home)

**IKEA Captain’s Bed with base,**

**drawers and a new mattress**

**Side Tables**

**Ceiling, table and desk Lighting Units**

**Rugs**

**Kitchen Accessories (including a bread maker)**

If you are interested in any of these items,

please call the Church Office 613-345-5014.

<https://gracefieldcamp.ca/>.

First Presbyterian Church will sponsor campers again this summer for a wonderful experience in God’s great outdoors. **Would you like to sponsor a child to camp?** Would you like to donate to the sponsorship fund? *Please contact the church office for more information and ways to donate.*

**THINGS WE NEED!!**

**SOCKS** -At our Sunday Suppers, one of the items most requested is socks for men & women. Donations can be left at the Church Office or call the Office 613-345-5014 to arrange for a pickup.

Copies of the **MAY PRAYER CALENDAR** are available this morning on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary.

**Justice and Hope for All**

**The Sacrament of Baptism**

This morning, we welcome into the body of Christ, through the Sacrament of Baptism,

**ANNITA JEAN MARIE BEAN**

daughter of Devon Joseph Bean

and Cynthia Elizabeth Ouellette

and

Goddaughter of Arthur Reed

and Tiffany Bissonnette - Reed

We are delighted to welcome the family and their friends to share in this special event and pray that God will bless Annita and her family in the years ahead.



**A 2025 Federal Election Resource**

Canada’s next federal election is scheduled for April 28th. Democratic institutions rely on informed citizens’ engagement. This resource contains questions about issues that *The Presbyterian Church in Canada* has spoken on. Grounded in our understanding that the church’s role in society is to pursue love and justice for all of God’s creation, this resource is intended to support personal reflection, conversation within congregations and advocacy with candidates. While this resource focuses on issues that are national in scope, local issues also have a place in our advocacy with candidates and elected oIicials. If there is a topic not included in this resource that you would like to learn more about, you may be able to find out more about it on the Social Action Hub: presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/.

**May 4th is LOAVES & FISHES Sunday -** Our Church supports the work of this restaurant with our donations of money and time. This ministry assists so many, and we are thankful to be a part of it. Donations of food can be left in the basket at the rear of the Sanctuary or delivered to the Church Office (macaroni type pasta and coffee are great choices) during the week. Donations of money are welcome in your

regular offering envelopes or online donations.

Please mark all envelopes clearly. Thanks!

Visit: [*https://presbyterian.ca/2025/03/27/justice-and-hope-for-all-a-2025-federal-election-resource/?bblinkid=284202294&bbemailid=58278982&bbejrid=-1090553810*](https://presbyterian.ca/2025/03/27/justice-and-hope-for-all-a-2025-federal-election-resource/?bblinkid=284202294&bbemailid=58278982&bbejrid=-1090553810)

for discussion questions concerning the following topics:

***Affordable Housing Safe - Climate Change - Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation***

***International Aid - International Relations - Poverty Reduction Strategies Poverty***

***Refugee Sponsorship and Immigration - Rights for 2SLGBTQI+ People***

A sign with a balloon and a sign

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**The Open House at First Church, for the Capital Project, has been re-scheduled to Saturday May 24th, 10 am. to 2 pm. Invitations will be circulated to neighbours inviting them to come and find out about the Capital Project. We will need volunteers to help distribute invitations on May 13/14 and to help with refreshments on May 24th. Please speak to Brenda Fisk or Quentin Robinson if you can help.**

**Brockville Women’s Institute**

The Brockville Women’s Institute is a non-profit women’s group focusing on education. The group addresses concerns of health, family and community matters, recording local history, and preserving the environment. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 5th at the Brockville Wesleyan Church from 1 to 4 pm. For more information contact Anita Evans at 613-865-8939.