

# Clarence Presbyterian Church

9675 Main Street, Clarence, New York 14031

The Rev. Dr. Gregory W. Hall, Pastor

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**Growing, Serving, Celebrating**



**2nd Sunday in Easter**

**April 11, 2021**

**8:30 am & 10:00 am**



**Friends, at this stop on your life's pilgrimage  
we bid you welcome  
with the hope that here you will find the  
love of God, which He offers  
to all who seek to serve and follow Him!**

**Welcome and thank you for worshipping with us today!**

**Some things you should know:**

- Please observe social distancing by using every third pew and keeping 6 feet between families.
- Please wear a mask and be sure your nose and mouth are covered.
- There are no hymnals, bible, etc. in the pew racks. You are encouraged to upload the bulletin provided in *Staying Connected* on Thursdays to a mobile device or pick up a hard copy in the Narthex before the service.
- There will be no collection of offering during this time. Your offering may be left in plates on stands in the Narthex or continue to give electronically or by mail.
- Communion is served in individual packages on the first Sunday of the month, both services.
- There is no Nursery or Sunday School during this period.
- We continue to live stream the 10 am service each Sunday.

**Additional assistance available from the ushers:**

- Large print Bulletins
- Printed copies of today's sermon available prior to the services; available online on most Mondays.
- Location of the Elevator, Hearing Devices, Recorded Services

**Please exit the building at the conclusion of the service.**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE: "The Christian's Inner Life Is Shining"

J.S. Bach/arr. George Blake

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

How very good and pleasant it is  
**when the people of God live in unity.**  
Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega,  
**the Lord who was and is and is to come.**

ANTHEM: "The Day of Resurrection!"

Lancashire

***The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,  
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,  
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.***  
***Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;  
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.***

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, in love you spread good gifts before us, more than we need or deserve. You feed, heal, teach, and save us. We confess that we always want more; that we never share as freely as you give. We resent what we lack, and are jealous of neighbors. We misuse what you intend for joy. God, forgive our stubborn greed, and our destructiveness. In mercy, help us to take such pleasure in your goodness that we will always be thinking of you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.** (moment of silent confession)

RESPONSE: "Kyrie eleison" Guarani Melody/harm. Carlton R. Young  
***Kyrie eleison; Kyrie eleison; Kyrie eleison; Kyrie eleison.***  
***Christe eleison; Christe eleison; Christe eleison; Christe eleison.***

## THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE: "We Are Forgiven" Hal H. Hopson  
***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.***  
***Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.***

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

MUSICAL INTERLUDE: "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" Emma Lou Diemer

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: I Kings 19:11-16

11 He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' <sup>14</sup>He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' <sup>15</sup>Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

### PSALM 133

<sup>1</sup> How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
<sup>2</sup> It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.  
<sup>3</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,  
life for evermore.

RESPONSE: "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.***

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 20:19-29

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

SERMON: "Mother Teresa: Living With Doubt"

ANTHEM: "These Things Did Thomas Count as Real"

Kedron

***The vision of his skeptic mind was keen enough to make him blind to any unexpected act too large for his small world of fact.***

***His reasoned certainties denied that one could live when one had died, until his fingers read like Braille the markings of the spear and nail.***

***May we, O God, by grace believe and thus the risen Christ receive, whose raw imprinted hands reached out and beckoned Thomas from his doubt.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our church family members who are in nursing homes or homebound: Ruth Deal, Wayne Gardiner, Diane Green, Janet LaRusch, Ginger Lindner, Renee Mavis, Marge Salisbury, Jane Schutz, Wendy Taylor and Alan West.

Our church family members in the hospital, receiving treatments and/or recovering at home: Chuck Bernd, Bev Drake, Mary Eisenberger, Dan Faes, Sue Kinnin, Norm Kreib, Scott Kronmuller, Debbie Meinzer, Nancy Murto, Sylvia Nascimben, Audrey Owen, Mary Louise Rampolla, Phil & Paull Utter, and Kay West.

LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

**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.**

ANTHEM: "Thine Is the Glory"

Judas Maccabeus

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won. Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.*

Refrain:

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou e'er death has won.*

*No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life! Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.*

Refrain

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Voluntary"

John Reading



**Minister:**

Rev. Dr. Gregory Hall

**Director of Music Ministry:**

Kotoe Shimojo

**Sunday School Superintendent:**

Sue Zografos

**Youth Coordinators:**

Melissa Bertrand, Ken & Karen Cummins

**Lay Readers:**

8:30 am—Jim Owen; 10 am—Roddy Potter

**Ushers:**

8:30 am—Lynda Large; 10 am—Patricia Estill, John Story

**Counters:**

Paul Belanger, Ed Boyer, Dave Gardiner

**Flowers:** In honor of family and friends from Tom and Maryalice Yaiko.

### CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEK

#### Today

8:30 am

**Worship**—Sanctuary

Adult Education—Upper Fellowship Hall

10:00 am

**Worship**—Sanctuary & Online

#### Monday, April 12th

9 am—2:30 pm CCNS/UPK—Upper South End Christian Ed Wing

9 am—2:00 pm Clarence Food Pantry—Bodine Room

6:00 pm Highlanders Rehearsal—Upper Fellowship Hall

#### Tuesday, April 13th

9 am—2:30 pm CCNS/UPK—Upper South End Christian Ed Wing

11:30 am Staff Meeting—Upper Fellowship Hall

#### Wednesday, April 14th

9 am—2:30 pm CCNS/UPK—Upper South End Christian Ed Wing

9:00 am Loose Screws Social Club

#### Thursday, April 15th

9 am—2:30 pm CCNS/UPK—Upper South End Christian Ed Wing

**Friday, April 16th**

9 am—2:30 pm CCNS/UPK—Upper South End Christian Ed Wing

**Saturday, April 17th**

9 am—12 pm Trustee Sponsored Clean Up Day—Church Grounds

**Sunday, April 18th**

8:30 am **Worship**—Sanctuary (Reservations)  
Adult Education—Upper Fellowship Hall  
10:00 am **Worship**—Sanctuary (Reservations) & Online  
11:00 am Mission Committee Meeting—Upper Fellowship Hall

**Easter Memorial:**

In memory of James, Elizabeth and Raymond, given by Mary Stahley.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** is an annual Presbyterian special offering collected during the season of Lent providing us with a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Thank you to all who contributed a total of \$4,357 exceeding our goal of \$3,500!

**The Adult Education Class** meets on Sundays at 8:30 am in the Upper Fellowship Hall socially distanced. We have begun a new study, [\*The Lies My Preacher Told Me—An Honest Look at the Old Testament\*](#) by Brent A. Strawn (excluding Greg of course!). Today we will discuss Chapter 4: "*The Old Testament God is Mean...Really Mean.*" For questions contact Steve Dale.

**The Virtual Adult Study with Greg** will resume on Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00 pm and continue through May 19. We return to the theme we began in the fall, Luminaries—people whose lives illuminate aspects of the Christian faith. This weekly course explores more deeply the theme of the previous Sunday and will continue into the spring. Look for the link to join in *Staying Connected*. Call the office if you have any questions.

**The Trustees' sponsored Spring Clean Up Day** will be on Saturday, April 17, 9:00 am to noon (rain date April 24). This is the day we beautify our church grounds for the upcoming warm weather. Because of the pandemic, we will be limiting the work to outside the church buildings. We'll be weeding and mulching the flower beds, washing the windows (outside), and setting up the fountain and furniture in the courtyard. Wear gardening gloves and bring gardening trowels, rakes, and tarps if you have them. Leaf blowers and wheel barrows will also be needed. Please sign up via *Staying Connected* to provide an estimate for coffee and refreshments!

**The next Mission Committee** meeting will be on Sunday, April 18 at 11 am in the Upper Fellowship Hall.

**Clarence Presbyterian Church: An Anthology UPDATE!**

Please join in this written fellowship - remember this may turn into a fundraiser for our food pantry. More details are available in our weekly email, *Staying Connected*. Send submissions, questions, and/or name suggestions to [cpcanthology@gmail.com](mailto:cpcanthology@gmail.com). If you are unable to submit electronically leave your submission in the library's mailbox in the office or mail to church: 9675 Main St., Clarence 14031, Attn: Anthology. Thanks!

**Pantry needs** this week are napkins and sweet pickles. Thanks!

**A Cancer Companion group** will begin meeting this spring at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7720 Goodrich Rd., Clarence Center on Tuesdays at 6 pm beginning April 20. Contact Carol at 716-741-9436 for more information.