

Clarence Presbyterian Church

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Growing, Serving, Celebrating



4th Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

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!**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Arr. Victor Labenske

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

TIME FOR STILLNESS

CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord our God, we praise you.

We cried to you for help, and you answered us.

You have restored our lives.

You have rescued us from the grave.

O Lord our God, we praise you.

We cried to you for help, and you answered us.

*HYMN No. 39 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

FAITHFULNESS

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we have strayed from your paths of right relationship and peace, and we have dishonored you, ourselves, and your creation; we repent of these hurtful ways. Forgive us, we pray, as we learn to forgive others, and guide us into the way of peace. Amen. (moment of silent confession)

RESPONSE: Hymn No. 578 "Kyrie eleison"

Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son (4x)

Chri-ste e-le-i-son (4x)

*Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE: Hymn No. 447 "We Are Forgiven"

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

(Please greet those near you with words such as "The Peace of Christ be with you.")

ANTHEM: "Joyful Sing!"

Allen Pote

Children's Choir directed by Connie Allison

Kim Story, Flute & Carol Weidman, accompaniment

Joyfully sing, sing praises to God. Joyfully lift up your voice. For God has created a wonderful world.

*Joyfully sing and rejoice! Be thankful for mountains,
meadows and trees, rambling rivers and billowing seas. Summer and winter, autumn and spring,
with hearts that are grateful, we will sing!*

Joyfully sing, sing praises to God. Joyfully lift up your voice. For God has created a wonderful world.

*Joyfully sing and rejoice! For high flying birds, and creatures that crawl,
each living thing from the largest to small. But mostly of all, how thankful are we that God has created*

you and me, you and me.

*Joyfully, joyfully, joyfully sing. Sing of the joy that life can bring. We are God's children
and happy are we, that God has created you and me!*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(Children PreK through 12th Grade will leave for Sunday School.)

Sacrament of Baptism

INTRODUCTION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, through the sacrament of Baptism we share in the death and resurrection of Christ and are incorporated into Christ's holy church. Baptism proclaims the faith of the church. By the sign of water God cleanses from sin, renews life, and prefigures the reconciliation of all things promised in Christ.

PRESENTATION

RENUNCIATIONS

PROFESSION (*Minister/All*)

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER (*Minister/All*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe, ruler of heaven and earth.

You are the source of light and life for all creation. In your goodness you give us the sign of water.

Glory to you forever and ever.

In the waters of the river Jordan Jesus was baptized by John and anointed by the Holy Spirit. He is the never-failing spring who has promised that all who thirst can come to the living water.

Blessed be God forever and ever.

By the baptism of his own death and resurrection he set us free from bondage to sin and death and opened to us the joy and freedom of everlasting life. As he suffered for us, the piercing of his side brought forth water and blood.

Glory to you forever and ever.

Therefore, saving God, we bless you for the water with which you bless us. We pray that Donna & Weston, who comes to the waters of life, will live in your grace, sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this water, that all who are gathered under this sign may be one in Christ.

Blessed be God forever and ever.

We give you praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Glory to you forever and ever. Amen.

THE BAPTISM

...I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may respond:

This is the fountain of life, water made holy by the suffering of Christ, washing all the world.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

Pew Bible (NT) p. 120

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 23:1-6

Pew Bible (OT) p. 474

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters;**

³ He restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff
they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

*RESPONSE: Hymn No. 581 "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.

SERMON: "Testimony of Works"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(From The Iona Community)

We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all, and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.

Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust; and, in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the Spirit of Love, and in the company of the faithful so to be the Church, for the glory of God. Amen.

*HYMN No. 187 "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

BRADBURY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our church family members who are in care facilities or homebound:

Lois Benedict, Allene Falk,

Wayne Gardiner, Janet Hodges, Sue Kinnin, Renee Mavis, Jane Schutz.

Our

church family members in the hospital, receiving treatments and/or recovering at home: Bev Drake, Jared Grenzebach, Lisa Hawkes, Norm Kreib, Scott Kronmuller, Debbie Meinzer, Morna Lonca, Audrey Owen, Margaret Thayer, Bill Weikert, Paull Utter.

THE 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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "The Light, The Love"

Ruth Artman

Chancel Choir

The Light of the Lord surrounds us, everyone, The Glory of His presence shines brighter than the sun!

O, He may shine within us and keep us from sin; If we but ask His blessing and let Him dwell within!

The Love of the Lord enfolds day by day; His mercy and compassion are with us on our way!

His love is like a flame, eternal and pure; It may bring us blessed joy, and make salvation sure!

Wherever we may wander, however dark the night, Our precious Lord is near us, to guide our steps aright!

For He is watching over us, wherever we may be, That we may know His Light and Love, unto eternity!

*DOXOLOGY: HYMN No. 609 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*HYMN No. 803 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

RESIGNATION

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Batalha de tom, No. 6"

Antonio Correa Braga (Portugal, 17th c.)

Minister:

Rev. Dr. Jason Cashing

Director of Music Ministry:

Kotoe Shimojo

Sunday School Superintendent:

Jenna Abel

Bell Ringer:

Hoy Family

Acolyte:

Luke Story

Bible Carrier:

Kaden Abel

Lay Reader:

Allyson Siegel

Greeters:

Lisbeth Kreib & Sarah Thompson

Ushers:

Bob Poczik & John Story

Nursery

Tsengel Wadon & Amanda Pugh

Live Stream:

Raymond Cich

Counters:

Sarah Thompson, Gene Koszarek, Mary Jane Shonn

Flowers: In loving memory of Rose Perreault by the Swain Family.

CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sunday, May 11th

8:30 am

9:15 am

9:20 am

10 am

10:15 am

11:15 am

Monday, May 12th

9 am—2:30 pm

9 am—2 pm

6 pm

6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 13th

9 am

9 am—2:30 pm

7 pm

Wednesday, May 14th

9 am—2:30 pm

9 am

Thursday, May 15th

9 am—2:30 pm

9:30 am

7:15 pm—8:45 pm

Friday, May 16th

9 am—2:30 pm

Saturday May 17th

1 pm

3 pm

6 pm

Sunday, May 18th

8:30 am

9 am

9:15 am

9:20 am

10 am

10:15 am

11:15 am

12:30 pm

4th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

Worship/Communion—Sanctuary

Adult Education—Bodine Room

Coffee/Fellowship—Narthex

Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Worship—Sanctuary & Online

Nursery—Upper Hall Christian Education Wing

Children's Choir Singing—Sanctuary

Sunday School/Youth Classes

Coffee/Fellowship—Narthex

Nursery School/UPK- Upper South End, Ed Wing

Clarence Food Pantry—Bodine Room

Gordon Highlanders Rehearsal—UFH/Parking Lot

Women 'n Wisdom offsite BookCellar Book Bar

Staff Meeting - LFH

Nursery School/UPK- Upper South End, Ed Wing

Christian Ed Meeting —LFH

Nursery School/UPK- Upper South End, Ed Wing

Loose Screws Social Club—Various

Nursery School/UPK- Upper South End, Ed Wing

Knitters' Gathering - LFH

Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary & LFH

Nursery School/UPK- Upper South End, Ed Wing

Barbara Kautz Memorial Sanctuary, Narthex, UFH

Williamsville Performing Arts Studio Sanctuary

Corvette Club Meeting—UFH

5th Sunday of Easter

Worship/Communion—Sanctuary

Adult Education—Bodine Room

Canoe Trip Meeting—UFH

Coffee/Fellowship—Narthex

Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Worship—Sanctuary & Online

Nursery—Upper Hall Christian Education Wing

Sunday School/Youth Classes

Coffee/Fellowship—Narthex

Williamsville Performing Arts Studio Winter Showcase - Sanctuary

Pantry Needs this week are: Mayonnaise, Pickles, and Bouillon. Thanks!

The Knitters Gathering, we will be meeting as usual on the third Thursday of the month, May 15, from 9:30 to 11:00 am in the Lower Fellowship Hall. Knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us for a time of relaxing fellowship.

Are you looking for an opportunity to have fun with your fellow church members while making a difference in your local community?

We're looking to assemble teams for two more Habitat for Humanity project dates. The first is June 28 and the second is July 26. Construction experience is not necessary and there are a variety of activities for people with different skill levels and physical abilities. All of the necessary instruction and tools are provided on the job site. The only requirements are that you are at least 16 years old (18 to use power tools), that you bring your enthusiasm and a smile, and that you don't wear open toed shoes. There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Narthex. You can also contact Paul Belanger to express interest or ask questions. Project teams are limited to 8, so if you are interested please don't wait. We'll try to accommodate everyone who has an interest. And mark your calendars! Angela Watson and Doug Williams, construction managers for Habitat for Humanity, will be joining us for worship on May 18 and will be in the Upper Fellowship Hall at 11:30 following our service for an information session. They will explain the history & mission of Habitat for Humanity, tell some stories about people who have been helped, and answer questions. Please be sure to join us for this exciting event, even if you can't participate on June 28 or July 26 but might have an interest in participating in the future.

Take Dad Out To The Ball Game

June 15th, 1:00 pm Bison game \$14 per person
seats are undercover between first base and home plate Please let Julie Furminger know if you are interested. If we don't get enough people during the next two weeks, we will have to cancel the event because we will not qualify for the group discount.

The Ride For Roswell

Thank you to those who have sent in their donations. Our team is part of a program called Kids Just Want To Have Fun which supports cancer research for young children. The amount of donations they will give our team will be based on how much we raise by the end of May. Therefore, if you plan to support the Clarence Christian Crusaders this year, please get your donations in to Julie Furminger as soon as possible.

The next meeting of Women 'n Wisdom on Monday, May 12, 2025, 6:30 pm at BestCellar Book Bar, located on Main Street, in the plaza across from the High School. A light menu and drinks are available for purchase, <https://bestcellarbookbar.com>. All ages are welcome! We will continue a "speed dating" format as we get to know each other better.

Please join us the second Monday of every month, 6:30 pm. for a time of renewal, reflection, and relationship with each other as we live into God's presence among us, and grow into wisdom!

A REMINDER: KAUTZ MEMORIAL

The memorial for Barbara Kautz will be Saturday, May 17th, at 1:00 pm at the church. It will be followed by a "Tea Party" Reception in the Fellowship Hall. She would have loved that!