

**March 19, 2023**  
**10:30 AM Service of Worship**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**Gathering Around the Word**

WELCOME

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim Clark

Leader: Lord Christ, open our eyes

**People: To see clearly the light of the world.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, illumine our minds

**People: To perceive God's glory shining among us.**

Leader: Almighty God, prepare our hearts

**People: To see, to trust, to worship the Messiah.**

Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God!

\*HYMN #377

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**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.**

\*SILENT CONFESSION

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE #555

*O Lamb of God*

***O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;***

***Have mercy on us, Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.***

\*THE PASSING OF GOD'S LOVE AND PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all ... **And also with you.**

**Proclaiming the Word**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Lou Gary

HYMN #414 (Insert)

*Be Still and Know That I Am God*

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 23

p. 544

This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Why Should He Love Me So?*

Choir

SECOND LESSON

1 Samuel 16:1-13

p. 277-278

This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"Surprise!"

Pastor Stephen Choi

**Responding to the Word**

\*DECLARATION OF FAITH

The Confession of 1967

**God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work. (Adapted from 9.09)**

\*HYMN #649

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY      *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. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Bearing and Following the Word**

\*HYMN #625      *How Great Thou Art*

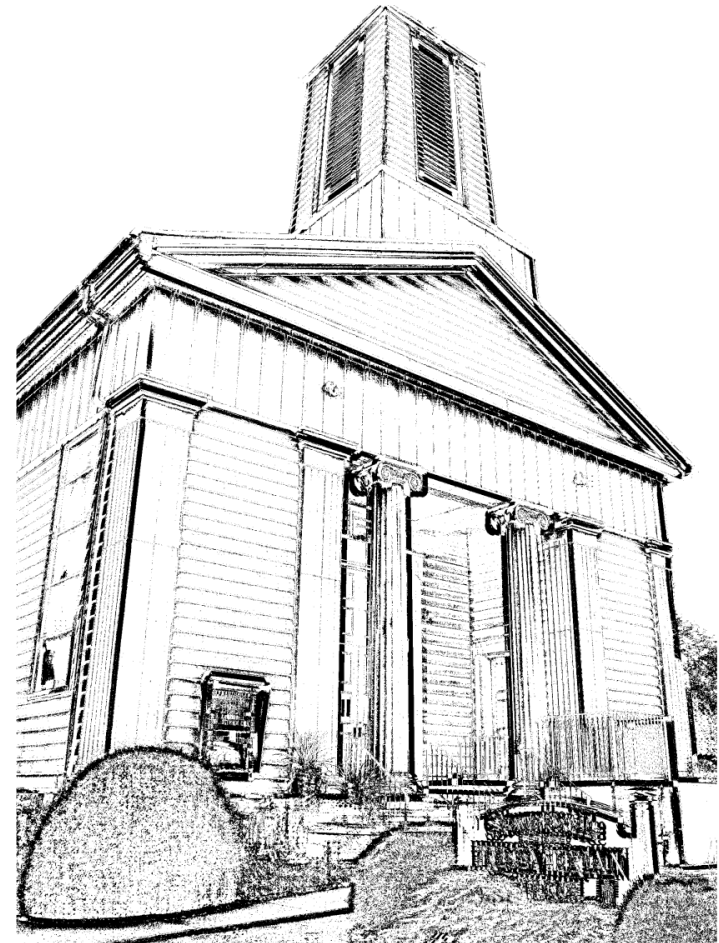
\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE #543      *O Christ, Surround Me*  
*God, be the love to search and keep me;*  
*God, be the prayer to move my voice;*  
*God, be the strength to now uphold me:*  
*O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

\*POSTLUDE

\*Please stand if able

# STEWARTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## Stewartsville Presbyterian Church

**The Ministers: All the Members**

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi, Pastor

The Rev. Jack E. Roan, Pastor Emeritus

Brian Ballentine, Music Director

Denise DeMasi, Choir Director

Laura Choi, Christian Education Director

Renée Herb, Office Manager

Mary Lou Gary, Treasurer

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**OUR CONGREGATION IN MINISTRY**

<b>Assisting in Worship Today</b>	Jim Clark
<b>Greeter Today</b>	Linda Williams
<b>Broadcast Team</b>	Alan Deak and Bill Fleming
<b>Nursery Today</b>	Janis Clark and Carol Nixon

**Week Ahead at Stewartsville Presbyterian Church**

**Today, 3/19:** Mission Trip Meeting after Worship Service, Library  
AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Wednesday, 3/22:** AA, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Friday, 3/24:** Friday Devotional Group, 8:00 a.m., Library  
Needlecraft Group, 9:30 a.m., Library

**Sunday, 3/26:** Sunday School, 9:20 a.m.

Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Time for Fellowship after Worship Service

Deacons Chapel Service, 2:00 p.m., Lopatcong Care Center

AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**This Week's Birthday**

**Saturday, 3/25:** Shane Stecker

**Holy Week Services**

**Palm Sunday, April 2.** We will have pony rides and a miniature donkey at 9:30 a.m. There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt. Children should bring their own baskets.

Palm Sunday will be celebrated with Holy Communion during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

**Good Friday, April 7.** We will gather for a soup dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Roan Hall. The soup, bread, and beverages will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. If you plan to attend, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

The Good Friday Service of Shadows will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**Easter Sunday, April 9.** We will celebrate Easter during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. There will be no Sunday School. The Nursery will be open, but not staffed.

## Announcements

**Welcome.** Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We invite you to sign the pew pad as they are being passed. Restrooms are located downstairs in Roan Hall. We hope that the service is a blessing to you, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

**With Sympathy.** Robert “Bob” Nuss passed away Saturday, March 11. Bob was a member of our church, and had also served as a Deacon.

His funeral service was held Thursday, March 16. Please keep Bob’s wife, Sis, and their family and friends in your prayers.

“I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” John 11:25-26

**Easter Flowers.** Please see the insert in today’s bulletin for information on ordering Easter flowers. We are offering daffodils and tulips. The deadline to order flowers is next Sunday, March 26.

**Women’s Circle.** Updated! The Women’s Circle will meet on Friday, March 31, at 5:00 p.m. at the Washington Diner, Routes 57 and 31, Washington.

After dinner, we will go to Warren Hills Regional High School to see their production of the musical “Anastasia.”

All women are invited to join us for a meal, good conversations, and the opportunity to encourage one another.

For more information or to make a reservation, please call Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

**College Care Packages.** We would like to stay in touch with our college students! The Deacons will send care packages to college and graduate students in April, and we do not want to miss anyone. Please e-mail the church office at with the mailing address of your student by Friday, March 31.

**Deacons’ Offering.** During the month of March, we are receiving a special offering to support the work and ministry of our Deacons. Please use the envelope in your offering box, or write a check and note “Deacons” on the memo line.

For online giving, go to the church website (stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Deacons.

**2023 Puerto Rico Mission Trip.** We are planning a mission trip to Puerto Rico this summer. The dates are July 22-29, 2023.

There will be a mission trip meeting after the worship service today in the library.

There are 12 total spots available on the mission trip. We are asking for a \$50 deposit to reserve your place. Spots are filling up quickly. If you have questions, please speak with Pastor Stephen.

**One Great Hour of Sharing.** The “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering will be received throughout Lent and Easter. We will receive this offering through Easter Sunday, April 9.

The Presbyterian Church USA divides the gifts received almost equally between three programs: Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

A special envelope is in your 2023 offering envelope box, or you may write a check noting “OGHS” on the memo line.

For online giving, go to the church website (stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Special, and specify “OGHS” in Notes.

**Catholic Charities Food Pantry.** We continue to donate food and toiletries to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese, snacks for children, side dishes, and canned stew, as well as grocery bags.

**Devotionals.** The following daily devotionals are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary:

- “Our Daily Bread,” March/April/May issue.
- “Today,” March/April issue.
- “Our Daily Bread,” large-print edition, April/May/June issue.

**Pray for This Week’s Mission Partner: Covenant Network of Presbyterians.** The Covenant Network of Presbyterians is a broad-based, national group of clergy and lay leaders that calls the church to bear a unified witness to generous hospitality and faithful justice. We seek an equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church and society by: Engaging the church to invite all of God’s children into safe and welcoming congregational spaces; educating the church to expand our welcome of LGBTQIA+ people; and equipping the church to bear witness to justice through advocacy and activism.