

WELCOME TO *church*

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Jan. 29, 2023

Enter in SILENCE

Wait with REVERENCE

Worship from JOY

PRELUDE: *"Cantata" BWV 29 by JS Bach*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Elizabeth Topolski

AFFIRMATION OF MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement

**As disciples of Jesus Christ,
led by the Holy Spirit,
we experience God's unconditional love,
and we witness to others
by discovering and sharing our gifts.**

CHORAL INTROIT:

Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Great and good God, give us pure hearts that we may see you.

People: Give us humble hearts that we may hear you,

Leader: Give us hearts of love that we may rightly serve you,

People: Give us hearts of faith that we may freely live in you.

Leader: Give us reverent hearts that we may fully worship you.

All: With grateful hearts and with lips of praise, let us worship God.

***Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!***

***Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend;
To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!***

***Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(In silence then unison)*

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our hearts. Too often we have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have left done those things which we ought not to have done.

Forgive our sins, dear God, and grant that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of our full acceptance . . . I declare to you.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Let us forgive one another.**

* GLORIA PATRI: *No. 579* *Glory Be to the Father*

***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.***

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on
me; and to the Son, whose grace has
pardoned me; and to the Spirit,
whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be. Amen.*

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

Share Christ's peace by using the peace sign or by waving to those in the Sanctuary.

~ Children may go downstairs for Sunday School ~

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY:

Please remember to be faithful stewards of your church family with your prayers, your time, talent and your financial resources.

Plates are positioned in the window sills and the center aisle.

Contributions may also be made:

- *Electronically on the church website at fpcb-nj.org;*
- *By electronic withdrawal from your checking account; or by*
- *Mailing your offering to the church:
P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ.*

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 577*

***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.***

***As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.***

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1: 18–31 The odd nature of God.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. *Cont'd*

²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 5: 1–12

Jesus delivers the Beatitudes.

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Cont'd.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

ANTHEM:

Chancel Choir

"These Alone, O God are Enough"

by Dan Shutte

MEDITATION:

Pastor David Harvey

Blessed Are You!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Micah 6: 6–8*

Leader: What shall we bring when we come before the Lord, when we bow before God on high?

People: Am I to come before God with burnt offerings, with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with a thousand rams or ten thousand rivers of oil? The Lord has told we mortals what is good and what is required.

Leader: What is it that the Eternal requires from you

People: but to be just and kind and live in quiet fellowship with your God? Amen.

* HYMN:

Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

vv. 1 & 3

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***Blessed are the poor in spirit;
all God's realm is surely theirs.
Those in mourning will find comfort
as an answer to their prayers.
Meek ones whom this world despises
will inherit everything.
God, your kingdom still surprises;
may we seek the reign you bring.***

Cont'd.

***Those who share the peace God gives them
will find blessings as God's own.
Those oppressed for faithful living
will call heaven's kingdom Home.
When the world's ways seem distressing
and we feel life's painful sting,
God, remind us of the blessings
of the wondrous life you bring.***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, 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.**

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 293 This Is My Father's World*

*This is my Father's world, And to my listening
ears All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.*

*This is my Father's world: I rest me in the
thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world. Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.*

*This is my Father's world: The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE: *"Hornpipe" by GF Handel*

*Our worship has ended —
our Christian Witness begins!*