

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Easter Sunrise Service at Blair Lake

7:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 9, 2023

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Sing praise to our Easter God, who changed sadness into gladness and took tears of night.

People: And dried them with morning light. Christ is risen!

Leader: Sing praise to our Easter God, who rolled away the stone of despair.

People: And places hope forever in the air. Christ is risen!

Leader: Sing praise to God, who visits us beside the seashore.

People: Teaching us always to love and adore. Christ is risen!

Leader: From the prayers of our hearts to praise that flows from our lips:

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: With grateful hearts and joyful praise, let us worship God.

HYMN:

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

***Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
But the pains which He endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(with silent contemplation and in unison)*

God of Christ's resurrection, for the glorious wonder of this moment and movement, we offer you our thanks and praise. We thank you for bringing new beginnings to our dead ends and rekindling the grace of hope in time of despair.

Forgive us of our hesitant action, our cautious compassion, and our reluctant acknowledgment of your redemption. Fill us with your liberating, resurrecting, refreshing power that we may live faithfully, walk hopefully, and look joyfully for the day when we inherit heavenly citizenship in your eternal Kingdom; in the name of the risen Lord, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Friends — hear, believe, and be claimed by the good news of God's powerful, life transforming, joy-generating love!

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

EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE: *Welcome one another with the peace of Christ.*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 10: 34–43

We are witnesses of Jesus resurrection.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

GOSPEL:

Matthew 28: 1–10

Mary Magdalene experiences the living Lord

28 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

EASTER MESSAGE:

Grace at the Grave

Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

1 Corinthians 15: 1–6, Colossians 1: 19–20

Leader: This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are being saved, if we hold firmly to the message proclaimed:

People: That Christ Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

EATING FISH

EASTER PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER:

(using debts and debtors)

SONG OF PRAISE:

Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna!

(vv. 1 & 3)

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen hush in wonder; all creation is amazed. In the desert all surrounding, see a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen, earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation, where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

Alleluia!

Special appreciation to all of our worship assistants!

*All are welcome to join us for Easter Worship & Communion
at 10 AM in the Church Sanctuary.*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825

Church Office: 35 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825

Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060

Food Pantry (908) 362-5254 Children's Center: (908) 362-7887

e-Mail: fpcb@ptd.net Website: fpcb-nj.org

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

CCLI Copyright License #: 2309277, Streaming License #: 20761595

