

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 9, 2023

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

ORGAN PRELUDE: *Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn BWV 630 by JS Bach* Alphons Gunther

WELCOME, AFFIRMATION OF MISSION STATEMENT & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Erika Wulster

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: 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 OF PRAISE: *No. 123 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!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. 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. *Cont'd.*

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.

* CHRIST'S VICTORY SONG: *No. 108 Christ Is Alive!* (v. 1)

***Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.***

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE: *Share Christ's peace by using the peace sign
or by waving to those in the Sanctuary*
~ *Usher(s) & Greeter(s) please come forward to assist with the Offering* ~

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 122 Thine Is the Glory* (v. 1 w/refrain)

***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 grave clothes Where Thy body lay.***

Refrain: ***Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.***

CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

Children's Choir led by Doris Sless
Accompanied by Maggie Morokutti

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT: Philippians 3: 10–14 The power of the resurrection is a glorious thing.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28: 1–10 Mary Magdalene experiences the living Lord.

ANTHEM: *This is my Beloved Son by Peppercorn Choplin* Chancel Choir

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.

* COMMUNION HYMN: *No. 118 The Day of Resurrection!*

*The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, From this world unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over With hymns of victory.
Our hearts be pure from evil, That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light;
And listening to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.
Now let the heavens be joyful, Let earth the song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph, And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen, Our joy that hath no end.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

Erika Wulster

This not a Presbyterian table. This is the Lord's Table, and Jesus is the host. Our Savior invites all who are truly sorry for their sins and would humbly put their trust in him to come to the feast which he has prepared. Listen to the gracious words of our Savior Jesus Christ:

Leader: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People: People will come from East and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

Leader: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity.

People: God sent the whole world God's only Son. Since God loved us so much, we too, should love one another.

Leader: This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites all who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared. Listen to these precious and gracious words of the Lord Jesus:

*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I
am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For
my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Matthew 11: 28–30

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open
the door, I will come in to them and eat with them, and they with me.*

Revelation 3: 20

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, & THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Pastor: Holy Lord . . . as we pray together:

All: As we have eaten the bread and consumed the cup, O God, may the power of Christ's redemptive love become alive within us. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, when we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. In Jesus' name we joyfully pray together: "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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

OFFERING OF THE ELEMENTS:

Approach the Table, receive the bread, take the cup, and return to your pew.

SHARING THE BREAD: Jesus said, "*I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*" (Jn. 6:37) Let us eat this bread in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit that is in him be in us also.

DRINKING THE CUP: Jesus said, "*I am the vine, you are the branches, apart from him, we can do nothing.*" Let us drink this cup in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit in which he died be our Spirit.

COMMUNION BLESSING:

Erika Wulster

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: Awesome God, we give you thanks for the hope we have in Jesus, who died, is risen and reigns over all. Because he lives, we look forward to eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present, or yet to come shall ever separate us from your magnificent, mysterious, and miraculous love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: No. 122

Thine Is the Glory

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 grave clothes Where Thy body lay.

REFRAIN:

***Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.***

Lo! Jesus meets us, Risen from the tomb; Lovingly He greets us, Scatters fear and gloom. Let the church with gladness Hymns of triumph sing, For the Lord now liveth; Death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]
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 TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *nun Danket Alle Gott BWV 657 by JS Bach*

Tim Topolski

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

Alleluia!

Special appreciation to everyone who participated in this service.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

The Human Family: Persons and individuals impacted by the COVID-19; essential workers; the homeless; people of Afghanistan, Haiti, and the Ukraine; families impacted by gun violence

Men & Women Serving in the Armed Forces & America's Veterans

Those in elected office: The President, the Congress, State Assembly, local community servants

Healing for Friends & Families with:

Cancer: John Abney, Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorro and her family, Jay Ohland Jr., Bill S., Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Gerry Walker, Tracy Wolfe, Molly Grace Young, Alicia, Audrey, Darlene, Eva, Gail, Liza

Illness & Injuries: Les Ashburner, Sue Bonkowski, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Cameron McIntyre, Carol McLain, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Tracy, Carter

Prayers of Condolences for the family of Jim Cole, stepfather to choir member, Willow Kessler

TODAY'S WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSISTANTS

Greeter: Bill Olivier

Usher: Joan Cameron

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Communion Preparation: Teri Harvey & Stephanie Burke

Worship Leader & Communion

Assistant: Erika Wulster

Sound System: Theo Padavano

MIDI: Frank Wilson

DLP: Jen Plut

Ministers: The Congregation

Easter Flower Dedications

Deborah & Gary Albrecht

*In celebration of our risen Savior! Alleluia!
In memory of our parents*

Craig & Kaye Evans

*In celebration of Maddie & Isla McNeill
In memory of Connie Evans & Faye Robinson
In memory of Mary Scofield & Matt McNeill*

Betsy Gervasi

In memory of family and friends

Teri & David Harvey

*In memory of Wilmer & Linnie Harvey
In memory of Harland Williams*

Gladys Kitchen

In memory of Edith Haupt

Mary & Rick Kreger

*In memory of Margaret & William Faulhaber
In memory of Grace & Kenneth Kreger
In memory of Marge & Barry Clayton*

Mark Nelke

*In memory of Melissa Hart Nelke
In memory of Wini Kuehm Nelke
In memory of Carl D. Nelke*

Anna & Zsolt Nagyhetyenyi

In memory of loved ones

Don Nicholls

*In memory of Bob & Helen Schmidt
In memory of Elmer & Gary Nicholls
& Lois Gerardi*

Theo Padavano

In honor of Agnes Padavano

Pete & Betsy Peterson

*In celebration of Lali Sikharulidze
In celebration of our church family
In celebration of our family*

Jennifer Plut

In celebration of all church volunteers

Lillian Smith

In memory of loved ones

Donna Walters-Rabas

*In memory of Mr. & Mrs. William C. Walters
In memory of James Rabas*

Jan Swift

*In celebration of our risen Lord!
In memory of Ward & Ken Swift*

Topolski Family

*Christ is Risen!
In memory of William & Maren Bell
In honor of Helena Bosek*

Erika Wulster

In memory of family & friends

*The lilies are placed for those
"who are loved
by NO ONE
but
GOD."*

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Easter Sunday, Apr. 9

7:00 AM Sunrise Service @Blair Lake
8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Family Worship & Communion

Monday, Apr. 10 *Office Closed*

Friday, Apr. 14

12:30 PM Bible Study @OC

Saturday, Apr. 15

9:30 AM Food Pantry

Sunday, Apr. 16

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Kindness Rocks!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS): Your gift to the Special Mission offering, *One Great Hour of Sharing*, enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. We will receive the OGHS Special Offering through Easter, Apr. 9. You may contribute to OGHS electronically on the church website: fpcb-nj.org (donate through "PC(USA) Special Offerings") or by sending your offering to the church.

Habitat for Humanity: The April 8 build day for Habitat for Humanity volunteers that we were providing lunch for has been postponed until April 29. If you have any questions, please speak with Deacon Joan Cameron.

Bring a Friend to Sunday School on Sunday, April 16! Invite your friends to learn about our fun and interactive Sunday School program.

Kindness Rocks! Please join us during coffee hour and paint rocks for "Betsy's Garden." This activity has been planned by Presbyterian Women and will be led by Teri Harvey.

FPCB Book Club: The next meeting of the Book Club is scheduled for Wed., April 26 at 7 PM. We will be discussing the heartbreaking, page-turning new historical novel by Lindsey Hutchinson: [The Runaway Children](#). The Book Club meets every 6–8 weeks, and we read a variety of titles: fiction and nonfiction; mysteries and suspense. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions or would like a copy of our reading list, please speak with Teri Harvey or Kaye Evans.

Community Announcements

Pocono Concert Chorale – "Requiem by Johannes Brahms": Save the date for Sunday, April 23 @ 2:30 PM- at the First Presbyterian Church, 575 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA. Admission is \$10. Tickets are available in advance from Pocono Concert Chorale members or at the door. If you have any questions, please speak with Frank Wilson.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 GIVE NOW