

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 7, 2023

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Der Tag der ist so freudenreich" BWV 605 by J.S. Bach*

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: *(Adapted from Psalm 30: 4, 8-10, 12)*

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, you God's faithful one's.

People: Give thanks to God's holy name.

Leader: To you, O Lord, I cried, to the Lord I made supplication.

People: What profit is there in my death, if I go to the pit. Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Leader: Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to us. Be our helper!

People: Be gracious to me, O God, so I may praise you and not be silent. O Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you and praise you forever.

Leader: With great joy and thanksgiving, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 482 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *In silence then unison*

Gracious and most merciful God, guardian of our souls and our lives, teach us to treasure our bodies as temples of your Spirit. Forgive us in our misuse and abuse of food and drink. Help us, when our consumption is not lived in moderation.

Christ Jesus, our great healer, grant us strength and concern for our personal wellness and wholeness that we may live attune to and in alignment with your Spirit's claim on our lives. This we pray in Jesus' name and to his glory. Amen.

* *Please stand if you are able.*

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Baptized in Jesus' name and forgiven by Jesus, live kindly in heart, humble in mind, willing to love and ready to forgive as freely as Christ has first freely loved and forgiven us.

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

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 304 Jesus Loves Me!*

***Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.***

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY:

"Intermezzo " from Cavalleria Rusticana by Pietro Mascagni

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 577 Glory Be to the Father*

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and 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.***

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*Being baptized today is Theo Alexander Leontaris, born December 3, 2022
to parents Alex and Victoria Leontaris*

PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD:

Elder Bill Olivier

RENUNCIATION OF EVIL & AFFIRMATION OF GOD'S LOVE

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Apostles' Creed*

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

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; and 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life-everlasting. Amen.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

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

Pastor: Holy Lord, God almighty. We give thanks . . . now and forever. Amen.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM & THE BLESSING

PRESENTATION OF THEO LEONTARIS:

Jesus, Friend, So Kind and Gentle (v. 1) No. 451, The Hymnbook

***Jesus, Friend, so kind and gentle, little ones we bring to thee;
Grant to them Thy dearest blessing, let Thine arms around them be;
Now enfold them in Thy goodness, from all danger keep them free.***

Elder: Theo Leontaris, you are now received into the holy catholic church.

In baptism, God has made him a member of the household of God, to share with us in the fellowship of Christ. I charge you, the people of this congregation, to nurture him, to love him, and to encourage him as he grows in the way of Christ. Let us affirm our commitment to this child of God.

People: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Theo Leontaris into the Body of Christ and the family of God. We promise to love him, encourage him, share the good news of the gospel with him and teach him the way of Jesus that he might grow in the full knowledge and truth of Christ's love. Amen.

~ Please remain seated ~

BAPTISMAL HYMN: *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry (vv. 1, 2, 4)
No. 488, GTG*

***"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."***

***"When you heard the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun."
"I was there to hear your borning cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."***

~ Children may go downstairs for Sunday School ~

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

PASTORAL EPISTLE: 1 Peter 2: 2–10

GOSPEL LESSON: John 14: 1–14

ANTHEM: *"My Prayer"* by Penny Rodriguez Chancel Choir

MEDITATION: *The Way, The Truth, The Life* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* COMMUNION HYMN: *No. 508 For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

Deacon: 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

***This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and
believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the
last day.***

John 6: 40

***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: God of all power, where two or more are gathered, you are with us. Send your Holy Spirit upon us that we may live bound together by faith in Jesus' name, grateful for the life we share together. In our love for Jesus and one another, we pray as Jesus taught, singing, "Our Father, who art . . . 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:

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

People: As a people who receive new life through Christ, in Christ, with Christ, all glory and honor, thanksgiving and dominion belong to Christ, today and forever more. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD’S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 298 There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION: Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: *"Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin"*
Bux WV 76 by Dietrich Buxtehude

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

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

Illness & Injuries: Les Ashburner, Robert Benz, 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

TODAY’S WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSISTANTS

Greeter: Deb Albrecht

Usher: Gail Weber

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Sunday School: Lisa Besser

Lesson: *Peter and Tabitha*
based on Acts 9:36-43

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Worship Leader: Erika Wulster

Sound System: Theo Padavano

MIDI: Frank Wilson

DLP: Abby Besser

Ministers: The Congregation

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

{ Dates/times subject to change }

Sunday, May 7

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School /FH
11:15 AM Children's Choir
11:15 AM PW Exec. Board/FH

Monday, May 8

Office closed

Wednesday, May 10

1:10 PM BWC/OC

Sunday, May 14

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School/FH
11:15 AM Children's Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study: Please join us for 1:00 PM bible study on Fridays at the Outreach Center or via Zoom. Contact the church office to be added to our bible study contact list.

ShopRite (\$25/\$100), **Acme** (\$25/\$100), **Dunkin** (\$10), **IHOP** (\$10), **Starbucks** (\$10), and **Panera** (\$10) **gift cards** are available. See Gail Weber (or Jen Plut) to order additional cards or if you have any questions about how to support this ministry!

Ushers/Greeters/Worship Leaders are Needed! For anyone interested in trying out these easy (yes, really!) jobs for the first time, we provide instructions and training—and would love to have you involved. **Additionally, the worship team has sound system tech and projector/DLP openings.** Please consider volunteering for these important roles. Please contact the church office or speak with Bill Olivier if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Altar Flowers: Do you have a special occasion you would like to commemorate with altar flowers? There are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall. You may also sign up electronically through SignUpGenius which can be accessed through our website at <https://fpcb-nj.org/altar-flowers/>. Thank you, in advance, by providing altar flowers! The PW flower person of the month of May is Jennifer McElroy.

Pentecost Offering (April 10 – May 28, 2023): The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

OFFERING DISTRIBUTION:

40% Congregational ministries with children at risk

60% Presbyterian Mission Agency

> 50% ministries with youth and young adults

> 10% child advocacy/children at risk

Rib Rally Fundraiser: Save the date(s)! We are having a Rib Rally Fundraiser partnering with Texas Roadhouse in Stroudsburg, PA. You order the special (see menu below) to be picked up by you on Thursday, May 18 or Friday, May 19. It is a great way to support the church and have a great meal. A flyer with a scan code is attached, and we have also included a link below to order. If you would like to support this Rib Rally and would be interested in having your dinner picked up for you or if you have any questions, please let either Judy (judithlyntrigg@gmail.com or 908-910-8250) or the church office (fpcb@ptd.net or 908-362-5254) know, and we will work that out! **Proceeds will go toward the purchase of an AED.** Start placing your orders today!! 318 Stroud Mall, Stroudsburg, PA



Let's Rally Together!
Help us support our friends at
First Presbyterian Church
May 18 & May 19

Scan the QR Code for MORE Information and to schedule your To-Go Meal pre-order pick-up today!

The \$12 RIB RALLY Meal includes:
Fall-Off-The-Bone Ribs (4 Bones),
Seasoned Steak Fries,
Fresh-Baked Bread and
Homemade Honey Cinnamon Butter!
PLUS, you receive a Peanut Bag with Free Appetizer voucher for your next visit!

First Presbyterian Church receives 30% of EVERY MEAL SOLD!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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