

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

All Saints Sunday

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Nov. 5, 2023

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Cantique de Jean Racine by Gabriel Fauré*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF MISSION STATEMENT:

Pete Peterson

**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:

Rev. 7: 9-19

Leader: After this I looked and there was a great multitude that:

People: No one could count,

Leader: From every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,

People: Standing before the throne and before the Lord,

Leader: Robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

**People: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the
throne, and to the Lamb!**

Leader: With great gladness and great gratitude, let us worship God!

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 181 Come Sing to God*

vv. 1 & 2

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

Melanie Williams

**Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women,
to live and to be Christ's Body on earth. Forgive us when we
become indifferent to your will. You call us to live justly, but we
remain idle; you call us to live faithfully, but we are fearful; you
call us to be merciful, but we are often vengeful.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Grant us grace to live
faithfully, joyfully, and obediently to Christ's claim on our lives;
in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Friends — let the penetrating power of the Spirit grasp you.

Listen, hear, and accept the good news of God's great love,

People: Because of Jesus, I am loved and forgiven!

Let us love and forgive one another.

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 304 Jesus Loves Me v. 1*

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

Welcome one another with Christ's peace.

~ Children may go downstairs for Sunday School ~

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 375. Lord of All Good v. 1*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 2: 9–19 Lives worthy of our calling.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 23: 1–12 Jesus defines greatness.

ANTHEM: "Holy, Holy, Holy" (traditional) Chancel Choir
by Reginald Heber

MEDITATION: *Saints: of Humility* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Prayer of Saint Francis (1181–1226)*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace: where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that we might not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive, in pardoning that we are pardoned, and in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE: Elder Pete Peterson

Elder: 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 the table in the kingdom of God.

Elder: 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.

Elder: This is the Lord's Table. 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:

"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

Leader: The Lord be with you. Melanie Williams

People: And with your spirit.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: 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: Melanie Williams

Leader: 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, saying "Our Father, who art . . . 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: Elder Pete Peterson

Elder: 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. 526 For All the Saints*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION: Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: *"Vocalise" by Sergei Rachmaninov*

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

TODAY'S WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSISTANTS

Greeter: Johanna Leontaris
Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti
Worship Leader/Communion Assistant: Pete Peterson
Church Intern: Melanie Williams
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey
MIDI: Frank Wilson
Ministers: The Congregation

Usher: Deb Albrecht
DLP: Jen Plut
Children & Worship: Stephanie Burke
Lesson: *Exile & Return*
Faith Works: Lisa Burke
Lesson: *Mary's Story Luke 1:26-38*
& *Read through the Christmas play*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study: Please join us for 10 AM bible study this Tuesday at the Outreach Center or via Zoom. Contact the church office to be added to our weekly bible study email reminders/updates.

Presbyterian Women Lunch Meeting at 1 PM Friday, Nov. 10 at Buck Hill Brewery and Restaurant in their upstairs dining area.

Habitat for Humanity: Our church will once again be providing a hearty lunch for about 15 to 20 Habitat for Humanity volunteers at their work site on Sat., Nov. 11. The deacons are asking for donations of fruit, iced tea, water, sandwiches, chips, and some baked goods. Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for those who would like to donate. Please drop off your donations to the Outreach Center no later than 10 AM on Nov. 11. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Cameron at (908) 459-9068. The lunch is greatly appreciated by the Habitat volunteers so any assistance would be greatly welcomed.

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 November is Deb Albrecht.

Wish List for Thanksgiving Boxes: We are planning for 28 boxes from each Church. The distribution will take place at our church on Saturday, Nov. 18. Here's our current wish list: canned yams (30 oz), peaches (jars or cans), and canned jellied cranberry sauce. Also needed are cereals other than Cheerios and canned tuna in water. If you have any questions, please speak with Erika Wulster, Betsy Gervasi, or Judy Trigg.

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 in the church office) to order additional cards or if you have any questions about how to support this ministry!

Shoe Box Ministry for College Students: Anyone with college students that wish to receive a Shoe Box full of goodies, please send the student's address to Deacon Stephanie Burke via email sburke11286@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Silent Auction: Blair Woman's Club of Blairstown is hosting a Silent Auction on Thursday, Nov. 9 at Brook Hollow Winery beginning at 6 PM. You may register at the door (\$15 cash only). More information at <https://sites.google.com/view/blairwomansclubnj>. Over 150 items to bid on! Wine tasting available. Proceeds benefit education, service projects, and charitable donations. Speak with Jen Plut if you have any questions or would like to register prior to the event.

Announcements Cont'd.

Sit-Down Holiday Luncheon for Blirstown Resident Seniors aged 55 and older – Thursday, Dec. 7 at Panther Valley Golf & Country Club – 12–3 PM, \$10 per person includes salad, choice of 3 entrees, dessert, and beverage. Seating is limited – *sign up Friday, Nov. 9 at the Town Hall between 1–2 PM.*

Knowlton Pres. Church – Dec. 3 Community Messiah Sing Along: We are so glad to invite you to be a part of a special event. We are hosting a sing along of Handel’s Messiah. It is a free concert. We need singers and an audience, of course. If you have always wanted to sing or listen to this piece, here’s your chance. There will be a core group of singers that know the piece so need not worry about having never sung it. We have scores to loan out if you do not have one to bring. Concert at 4 PM; singers arrive at 2 PM for rehearsal. Concert and choral participation is free, but we do need you to RSVP so we can register you for a seat in chorus or sanctuary. We have a small sanctuary. Reception to follow. More info at knowltonpca.org/sing. Please text, call, or email Margie Miller (Committee Member) at (908) 362-9037 – leave a message with info-singer and part, or audience; text (908) 256-1586; email marevaline30@gmail.com.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

The Human Family: Persons and individuals who struggle with food insecurity and homelessness, the people in the Ukraine and the Middle East; families and communities impacted by gun violence; those impacted by severe weather.

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

Those in elected office: The President, the Congress, State Assembly, Municipality officials

Healing for Friends & Families:

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

Illness & Injuries: Robert Benz, Sue Bonkowski, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Peter Porzio, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, Demares, Tracy, Valerie

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

{ Dates / times subject to change }

Sunday, Nov. 5

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship & Communion
10:15 AM Sunday School

Monday, Nov. 6

Office closed

Tuesday, Nov. 7

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Friday, Nov. 10

1:00 PM PW Luncheon @Buck Hill

Sunday, Nov. 6

10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
