



THANKS
GIVING

worship

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Community Thanksgiving Service

Pastor David Harvey & Pastor Pedro Pillot

* Please stand if you are able.

7:00 PM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Nov. 21, 2023

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDES: *Let All Things Now Living - by Dale Wood*
Come Ye Thankful People Come - by George J. Elvey

WELCOME: Pastor David Harvey

CHORAL INTROIT: Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: From the depths of our being, heaven rings, the world sings
and we thank you, O God, our Creator.

**P: For bread that nourishes our bodies and friendship that
enriches our spirits, we praise Lord Jesus, our Redeemer.**

L: We thank you, our God, for the many ways your mysterious
presence has sustained us throughout the year, O Holy Spirit.

**P: As your grace has fed us each, so we praise your holy name
this day.**

L: With gladness and grateful hearts, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 551 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* vv. 1–2

***Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest
home: All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.
All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto God's praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear:
Lord of harvest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.***

THANKSGIVING PRAYER:

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray. *(in unison)*

P: Extravagant God, giver of all good gifts, as you brought the Israelites into a land flowing with milk and honey—a land where they were free from bondage and oppression, you have given us this good land—a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and corn, of fertile plains, and majestic mountains. We thank you, God, for the bounty that fills our tables, for the gift of family that warms our hearts, for friends who support us through the thick of it and through the thin of it—for all your gifts and the privilege to freely gather in worship in this land of beauty and bounty, we thank you and praise your name; this we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

* SONGS OF GRATITUDE FOR GOD’S FAITHFULNESS: *Give Thanks*
(No. 647, Glory to God)

***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, “I am strong”; let the poor say,
“I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”
Give thanks!***

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST’S PEACE:

Welcome one another with Christ’s peace.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY:

The offering this evening will be used to support the Northwest Jersey Truckstop Outreach in Columbia, NJ.

Plates are positioned on the windowsills and on the small table at the back of the Sanctuary. Contributions may also be made electronically on the church website: fpcb.nj.org or by mailing your offering to First Presbyterian Church at P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825.

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: No. 577

Glory Be to the Father

***Glory be to the Father, and 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.

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW LESSON: Deuteronomy 8: 7–18 NRSVUE

⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, ⁹ a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰ You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

¹¹ “Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes that I am commanding you today. ¹² When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them ¹³ and when your herds and flocks have multiplied and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵ who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock. ¹⁶ He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷ Do not say to

*O may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessèd peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God, Who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son And Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore,
The God who was, and is, And shall be evermore.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER (using debt & debtors)

* HYMN: *Why Should I Feel Discouraged?* (No. 661, GTG)
(His Eye is on the Sparrow) vv. 1-2

*Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

*"Let not your heart be troubled," his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION: Chancel Choir

* ORGAN POSTLUDE: *"When Morning Gilds the Skies"*
by Dale Woods

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED, OUR SERVICE BEGINS!

Northwest Jersey Truckstop Outreach

The Northwest Jersey Truckstop Outreach is a ministry that serves drivers and travelers at the Travel Center of America in Columbia, New Jersey that is located 70 miles west of New York City on Route 80. Here, big rigs can park, refuel, and undergo repairs, and long-haul drivers can shower, wash clothes, grab a hot meal and purchase essentials before or after they deliver their load to the major metropolis or other destinations.

The Northwest Jersey Truckstop Outreach mission is to offer Christian fellowship, aid, and education to any and all. They hold a weekly Bible study every Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. and invite all to join. Because they are nonprofit, they lovingly appreciate all donations that enable them to continue to do God's work.

For more information on the Northwest Jersey Truckstop Outreach, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/RevItUpOutreach>

or

<https://pres-outlook.org/2018/08/serving-the-world-at-a-truck-stop/>

**The produce for the Thanksgiving table is
generously donated by Arena Farms.**

**The produce will be given to a local food
pantry after Thanksgiving.**

A big “Thank You” to the
Chancel Choir for their gift of music and
to all who helped prepare for this
special Thanksgiving service.

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Pastors: Rev. David Harvey & Rev. Pedro Pillot



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