

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Christ the King Sunday/ Consecration Sunday

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Nov. 26, 2023

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Toccata by Charles Widor* (5-47)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Bill Olivier

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 95:1-7

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth

P: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing!

L: Know that the Lord is God.

P: The Lord made us, and we belong to our Creator; we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

L: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the courts of the Lord with praise.

P: Give thanks to God; bless God's name.

L: For the Lord is good;

P: God's steadfast love endures forever and God's faithfulness to all generations!

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 229 From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconsistent, and our obedience incomplete. Day by day, we have failed to grow in your likeness. In your tender love, forgive us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Friends in Christ, God the Creator brings you new life, forgives and redeems you. Take hold of this forgiveness and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus.

* *Please stand if you are able.*

P: Thanks be to God!

* CELEBRATING CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *Give Thanks* (No. 647 GTG)

***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks, because we're given Jesus Christ the Son.
And now let the weak say, "we are strong"; let the poor say,
"We are rich, because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks.***

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

Welcome one another with Christ's peace.

~ Children may go downstairs for Sunday School ~

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERTORY:

* 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

EPISTLE LESSON: James 3: 1–18 Melanie Williams
Christians should demonstrate Godly wisdom.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25: 31–46 Bill Olivier
The judgment of the nations.

ANTHEM: *Offertory by John Ness Beck* Chancel Choir

MEDITATION: *Good Fruit from Godly Wisdom* Melanie Williams

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Colossians 1: 15-20: An Affirmation of Hope*

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. *Cont'd.*

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 335*

Though I May Speak

vv. 1 & 3

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

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."

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound, vv. 1-4 (No. 766 GTG)*
(Alternate Tune: ST. PETER)

***The church of Christ cannot be bound By walls of wood or stone.
Where charity and love are found There can the church be known.***

True faith will open up the door And step into the street.

True service will seek out the poor And ask to wash their feet.

***True love will not sit idly by When justice is denied,
True mercy hears the homeless cry And welcomes them inside.***

***If what we have we freely share To meet our neighbor's need,
Then we extend the Spirit's care Through ev'ry selfless deed.***

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION:

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

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, Molly Grace Young, Audrey, Eva, Gail, Liza

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSISTANTS

Greeter: Betsy Peterson

Worship Leader: Bill Olivier

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Church Intern: Melanie Williams

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Ministers: The Congregation

DLP: --

Usher: Gail Weber

Children & Worship: Stephanie Burke

Lesson: *Advent I & II - The Prophets and Mary and Joseph*

Christmas Pageant Practice

Faith Works: Deb Albrecht

Jesus' Story Luke 2: 1-7

Practice Christmas play

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

{ Dates / times subject to change }

Sunday, Nov. 26

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Monday, Nov. 27 *Office closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers Rehearsal

Tuesday, Nov. 28

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Sunday, Dec. 3

Hanging of the Greens

1st Sunday in Advent

Consecration Sunday

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Family Worship & Communion

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

Office/Pantry Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060

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

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Table: The produce for the Thanksgiving table is generously donated by Arena Farms. The produce will be given to a local food pantry after Thanksgiving.

Thank You to everyone who helped out with yesterday's Jingle on Main!

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.

Sight and Sound Productions of Lancaster, PA is offering to the public the opportunity to stream "*Miracle of Christmas*" for \$19.99 sight-sound.tv. Anyone can view this production from the comfort of their home. If there is enough interest, FPCB is hoping to stream it on the big screen at the Outreach Center on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 3:00 PM. Please contact Jen at the church office if you would like to see "*Miracle of Christmas*" with members and friends of FPCB at the Outreach Center.

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!

Advent Wreath Making: On Monday, Dec. 4, at 5 PM, we will be holding an Advent Wreath Making event at the Outreach Center. Homemade soup will be served. Please let us know if you can make soup or help our hostess Erika Wulster with that event. Sign-ups are in Fellowship Hall

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Pocono Concert Chorale presents *A Ceremony of Carols* today at 2:30 PM at the First Presbyterian Church Stroudsburg, 575 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA. Admission \$10

Messiah Sing! A Free concert featuring a string quartet today at 4:00 PM at the Knowlton Presbyterian Church. Additional information at www.knowltonpca.org/sing. Refreshments provided.

Blair Vespers: Blair's Chamber Orchestra and Singers perform as part of this traditional holiday service on Dec. 8 at 4:30 & 7:00 PM in our Sanctuary.

Water Gap Singers Holiday Concert: Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 PM in our Sanctuary with a reception to follow. The program will include a variety of seasonal music, both sacred and secular. The Water Gap Singers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Funding has been made possible, in part, by the Warren County Cultural and Heritage Division. New members are always welcomed. There are no auditions. Visit their website for more information: <https://watergapsingers.org/>.

For your spiritual renewal and refreshment, consider attending some or all the activities below:



- ❖ ***Christ the King Sunday***
Nov. 26 10:00 AM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***1st Sunday in Advent & Hanging of the Greens & Celebration of Holy Communion/ Consecration Sunday***
Dec. 3 10:00 AM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***PW Advent Wreath Making & Soup***
Dec. 4 5:00 PM Outreach Center
- ❖ ***Blair Academy Christmas Vespers***
Dec. 8 4:30/7:00PM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***2nd Sunday in Advent***
Dec. 10 10:00 AM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***Water Gap Singers Christmas Concert***
Dec. 10 4:00 PM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***3rd Sunday in Advent & Children Christmas Pageant***
Dec. 17 10:00 AM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***4th Sunday in Advent Family Worship***
Dec. 24 10:00 AM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***Christmas Eve Service***
Dec. 24 7:00 PM 1st Presbyterian Church

