

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Second Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Feb. 25, 2024

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: "Concerto for trumpet in D Major " (07-02)
by Tomaso Albinoni

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

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:

L: With itching ears, come to Jesus with passionate curiosity.

P: With yearning hearts, we come to Jesus wanting to know Him.

L: With receptive minds, come to Jesus, ready to believe in Him.

P: With devoted lives, we come to Jesus hoping to encounter Him.

L: With joyful hearts and praise on our lips, let yield our praise to Him.

P: With joyful hearts and praise on our lips, let us receive Him.

L: With joyful hearts and praise on our lips, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 144 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus vv. 1 & 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)

**Merciful God, we gather in our worship by the grace and in the
name of Jesus, your Son. Forgive us when our religious rituals
become mundane and meaningless. Renew our minds when they
become more stuporous than they ought and reignite our faith
when it is more sluggish than we might prefer.**

**By the grace of your Holy Spirit, inspire us to live keenly aware
of your infinite love and arouse us daily to grow in the forgiving
presence of Jesus himself. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: This season of Lent, let us return to the Lord our God, and re-center
lives on God's grace and mercy.

**P: God who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, in
Jesus Christ, has forgiven us. Thanks be to God!**

* Please stand if you are able.

* CELEBRATING CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 298* v. 1
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE: *Welcome one another with Christ's peace.*

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

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

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

*Encountering Jesus Sermon Series: Deepening Our Faith through the
Lives of Those Who Encountered Jesus First*

HEBREW LESSON: Numbers 21: 4–9
The Israelites encounter God's provision,
God's punishment, and God's protection.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 3: 1–21
Jesus teaches Nicodemus about the
beginning of life.

ANTHEM: "Come Sing unto the Lord" Chancel Choir
by Joseph Martin

MEDITATION: *Jesus and Nicodemus* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (responsive) *Lord, Make Me an Instrument*
Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi (1181–1226)

L: Lord, make us an instrument of your peace.

**P: Where there is hatred, let me 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.**

L: O Divine Master, grant that we may seek:

**P: Not so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood
as to understand; to be loved as to love.**

**All: For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we
are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life. Amen.**

* HYMN: *No. 85* *What Wondrous Love Is This* vv. 1 & 2

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 341 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION:

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: *"Preghiera" by Cesar Franck (01-57)*

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 Salvadore, 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, Ashley Farhat, Anna Nagyhetenyi, Peter Porzio, Jan Smith, Noah Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, Demares, Tracy, Valerie

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Mark Nelke

Ushers: Joan Cameron &

Betsy Peterson

Worship Leader: Erika Wulster

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Sound System: Theo Padavano

DLP: Jennifer Plut

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Ministers: The Congregation

Children & Worship: Lisa Besser; *Jesus and the Children*

Faith Works: Deb Albrecht; *The Sower (Luke 8: 4-15)*

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, Feb. 25

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Children's Choir
11:15 AM Deacon Ministry/FH
2:00 PM Forest Manor Worship

Monday, Feb. 26 *Office closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

Tuesday, Feb. 27

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
6:30 PM Lenten Reflections/OC & Zoom

Wednesday, Feb. 28

11:00 AM Qigong/OC

Friday, Mar. 1

11:00 AM Qigong/OC
6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC

Sunday, Mar. 3

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

Encountering Jesus: Deepening Our Faith through the Lives of Those Who Encountered Jesus First

30-minute chapel-meets-Bible Study reflection on Tuesday evenings
beginning at 6:30 PM via Zoom (& at the Outreach Center) through
the Lenten season with church intern, Melanie Williams.

Lenten
Reflections

Zoom link available here:

[https://fpcb-nj.org/christianed/
lenten-study/](https://fpcb-nj.org/christianed/lenten-study/)

Zoom Meeting ID: 812 3961 2619;

Passcode: 431640

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Meeting: Today following the service of worship.

Children's Choir: A short (15 min) Children's Choir practice will be held each Sunday at 11:15 in the Sanctuary. Children may have a snack first in Fellowship Hall, then come upstairs and sing! Please speak with choir members Doris Sless or Maggie Morokutti if you have questions.

Lenten Reflections: The Lenten Reflections will be a 30-minute chapel-meets-Bible Study reflection on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM (at the OC or via Zoom: Meeting ID: 812 3961 2619; Passcode: 431640) through the Lenten season. Lent is a time when we prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus, but sometimes we forget that Jesus had an earthly ministry too. Join us as we meet some of the people who encountered Jesus and what their stories mean for us today.

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, Mar. 31. 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.

Johnsonburg Summer Camperships: The Presbyterian Women support children from our church who are interested in attending Johnsonburg summer camp. Any child interested in attending should write a letter to Presbyterian Women indicating their reason for wanting to attend camp. Letters should be in the church office by April 30. More information may be found at fpcb-nj.org/summer-camperships.

Habitat for Humanity: Our church will be providing a hearty lunch for about 12 to 15 volunteers at their work site on Sat., Mar. 16. The deacons are asking for donations of fruit, iced tea, water, sandwiches, chips, and some baked goods to be dropped off at the Outreach Center no later than 10 AM on Mar. 16. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for those who would like to donate. 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.

Worship Helpers: You are invited to sign up online through Sign-Up Genius — pick a date that works for you! Visit fpcb-nj.org for the sign-up link.

"Through Our Voice: Women in Song": A recital by church member, Andrea Morokutti, pianist and Andrea Bickford, soprano, showcasing the brilliant minds of Nadia Boulanger, Florence Price, Alma Mahler, Undine Smith Moore, and Libby Larsen will perform in our Sanctuary on Mar. 13 at 6:30 PM.

Cont'd.

Rescheduled Book Club: The next meeting will now be held at 7:00 PM on Wed., Mar. 13 (*tentative date*), hosted by Chris McGrath. We will discuss the book, A Gentle Rain of Compassion by David R. Shlim. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions, please speak with Teri Harvey or Kaye Evans.

Kindness Rocks! All are invited to join us on Sunday, Mar. 17 following worship and help us paint rocks with inspirational messages or pictures and enjoy a St. Patrick's themed coffee hour. All ages are invited! A sign-up sheet is available. Hosted by Presbyterian Women.

Loaves & Fishes: ShopRite (\$25/\$100), Acme (\$25/\$100), Dunkin' (\$10), IHOP (\$10), Panera (\$10), and Starbucks (\$10) gift cards are available at the OC during office hours. See Gail Weber to order additional cards or if you have any questions about how to support this ministry!



ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US THIS SUNDAY DURING OUR ST. PATRICK'S DAY THEMED COFFEE HOUR AND HELP US PAINT ROCKS WITH INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES OR PICTURES. ALL AGES ARE INVITED!

A SIGN-UP SHEET IS AVAILABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL OR THROUGH SIGN-UP GENIUS FROM OUR CHURCH WEBSITE
AT FPCB-NJ.ORG/PW-CALENDAR/
(OR JUST SCAN THE QR CODE TO GO DIRECTLY TO SIGN-UP GENIUS).



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE SPEAK WITH HOSTESSES,
AMANDA MACCHIA OR DEB ALBRECHT. THANK YOU !



Hosted by Presbyterian Women