

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Maundy Thursday / Good Friday

7:00 PM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 28, 2024

** Please stand if you are able.*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Ich Ruf Zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ - JS Bach* Tim Topolski

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT: Chancel Choir

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:** Deb Albrecht

On the night of our Lord's . . . *recognize you as Christ followers" (John 13: 34–35).*

On this night, Jesus, the Lamb of God, surrendered himself into the hands of those who would betray him and slay him. Before his arrest and trial, Jesus took a towel and washed his disciples' feet. He gave us a living example that we should do to others as he has done for us.

On this night . . . Christ's mysterious and miraculous love for us.

With prayer and praise, let us worship God.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE:** *No. 85 What Wondrous Love Is This* vv. 1 & 2 (see insert)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *In silence then unison*

Lord Jesus, like Judas, we have betrayed you; like Peter, we have denied you; like the other disciples, we have deserted you. Nevertheless, you remain faithful to us unto death, even death on the cross. In your mercy, forgive our sin; grant us grace to live life with your humility and hospitality; awaken within us the joy of your precious salvation; in your holy and precious name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Hear the Good News . . . keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

*** CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:** *Give Thanks* No. 647 GTG (see insert)

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

*** HYMN OF OBLATION:** *No. 280 Amazing Grace* v. 1 (see insert)

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

GOSPEL READINGS: John 15: 9–17 & Luke 23: 20–43

ANTHEMS: *Come to the Table* by Mark Hayes Chancel Choir
Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone? by Joseph Martin

MEDITATION: *Living the Story* Pastor David G. Harvey

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

* **COMMUNION HYMN:** *No. 516 Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation* vv. 1 & 3 (see insert)

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE: Elder Deb Albrecht

Why have we gathered here?

We come because we have been called to live out a story.

What story shall we live?

The story of God's saving love, revealed in Jesus.

Where did this story begin?

It was whispered before time began. It was sung in the melody of Creation.

Whose story is this?

This story is God's alone to tell. It hums in the rivers and the trees. It whispers in the skies and the seas. It calls to the people of all places. It speaks in our hearts and in our lives.

Why then should we speak of this story?

This story calls our name in Creation and claims our lives through the Cross and the empty tomb, of our redemption. We are it's telling in this time, this space, and this place.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER: Melanie Williams

With storytellers of all ages . . . as we pray the prayer Jesus taught, *singing*:

"Our Father, who art . . . forever. Amen."

Tell me the story of this night, of this table?

The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it.

Tell me what he said and did?

He said, "This is my body, given and broken for you. Do this in remembrance me."

Tell me what he said and did?

In the same way, he took the cup and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

This is our common story . . . story-telling, our testimony.

We celebrate God’s grace that has shaped and shapes our lives.

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS: *Approach the Table, take the bread, take the cup,
and return to your pew.*

SHARING THE BREAD & DRINKING THE CUP

COMMUNION BLESSING:

Elder Deb Albrecht

What is our prayer this day?

Ever-gracious and life-giving God, on this holy evening when we have remembered the Last Supper of the Lord Jesus, when his body was broken for us and his blood poured out for us, accept us in spite of our unworthiness. Fill us with mutual love for you and for one another that we may live into Jesus’ words and strive to love one another as he loved us. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

HYMN: *No. 93*

Ah, Holy Jesus

v. 1 (see insert)

GOSPEL:

Luke 23: 44–48 & John 19: 38–42 — The death of God.

DEPARTING IN GOD’S NAME

SOLO:

Were You There?

Willow Kessler

THE STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH & THE SEALING OF THE SEPULCHER

Leave the sanctuary in silence.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

***What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this,
O my soul! What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!***

***To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!***

* **CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:** *Give Thanks*

***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.***

* **HYMN OF OBLATION:** No. 280 *Amazing Grace* v. 1

***Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.***

* **COMMUNION HYMN:** No. 516 vv. 1 & 3

***Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation
Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
chosen by you, to be counted as friends:
yours is the strength that sustains our vocation,
ours a commitment we know never ends.
When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed, and our courage restored:
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept you as Lord.***

***Ah, holy Jesus, how have You offended,
That mortal judgment has on You descended?
By foes derided, by Your own rejected, O most afflicted!***



ASSISTING DURING THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Bill Olivier
Usher: Joanna Leontaris
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey
Worship Leader: Deb Albrecht
Church Intern: Melanie Williams
Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti
Organist: Tim Topolski
Soloist: Willow Kessler
Ministers: The Congregation



JOIN US ON EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024:
Blair Lake at 7:00 AM (weather permitting)
First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary at 10:00 AM

