

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Easter Sunrise Service at Blair Lake

7:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 31, 2024

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: Death's ambiguous mystery is no more.
Its power no longer lays claim.**

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: God has conquered through divine love
what no ordinary human could achieve.**

Leader: Christ is risen, Alleluia!

**People: A God-story with a message, alive and living,
reaches out to us and now defines us.**

Leader: Christ is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**People: Sing a new song, a glorious, living song.
God has broken the reign and rule of death.
Let us worship God. Alleluia!**

Leader: With grateful hearts and joyful praise, let us worship God.

HYMN:

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

***Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(with silent contemplation and in unison)*

**Almighty and merciful God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you
shattered the power of sin, giving victory over death. Yet, we remain**

captive to our fears and do not always live as a people made alive in Christ. Forgive us, we pray, when we pass over the poor and the hungry, when we ignore those who mourn, when we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and the destitute.

Help us release our fears, feed us with your resurrection power; grant us grace to grow each day as bold witness of your salvation that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, our friend, our brother, and our risen Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Friends — hear, believe, and be claimed by the good news of God's powerful, life transforming, joy-generating love!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Let us forgive one another.

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

DECLARATION OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 15: 51–57
Christ's resurrection is victory for the believer.

GOSPEL: John 20: 1–18
Mary Magalene announces the empty tomb to Peter.

EASTER MESSAGE: *Mary's Proclamation!* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: 1 Corinthians 15: 1–6, Colossians 1: 19–20

Leader: This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are being saved, if we hold firmly to the message proclaimed:

People: That Christ Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

EATING FISH

EASTER PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER: *(using debts and debtors)*

SONG OF PRAISE: *Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna!* (vv. 1 & 3)

***Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.***

***Christ is risen, earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation, where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone.***

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

Alleluia!

***Special appreciation to our worship leaders and helpers including
Lisa Besser, Craig Evans, Bill Olivier, & Melanie Williams.***

***All are welcome to join us for Easter Worship
at 10 AM in the Church Sanctuary.***



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Church: 1 Main Street, Church Office: 35 Main Street
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Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

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