

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Resurrection of the Lord

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 31, 2024

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

ORGAN PRELUDE: *Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn BWV 630 by JS Bach*

WELCOME, AFFIRMATION OF MISSION STATEMENT & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mark Nelke

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:

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 OF PRAISE: *No. 123 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

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.

* CHRIST'S VICTORY SONG: *No. 108 Christ Is Alive!* (v. 1)
***Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.***

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE

~ Usher(s) & Greeter(s) please come forward to assist with the Offering ~

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 122 Thine Is the Glory* (v. 1 w/refrain)

***Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes Where Thy body lay.***

Refrain:

***Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.***

CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

"He is Alive!"

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

"I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy"

Directed by Doris Sless
& Willow Kessler

DECLARING 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.

ANTHEM: *"Crown Him the Risen King"* by Pepper Choplin Chancel Choir

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.

* COMMUNION HYMN: *For Everyone Born* *No. 769, GTG (vv. 1, 3-5)*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

This is not a Presbyterian table. This is the Lord's Table, and Jesus is the host. Our Savior invites all who are truly sorry for their sins and would humbly put their trust in him to come to the feast which he has prepared. Listen to the gracious words of our Savior Jesus Christ:

Leader: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People: People will come from East and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

Leader: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity.

People: God sent the whole world God's only Son. Since God loved us so much, we too, should love one another.

Leader: This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites all who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared. Listen to these precious and gracious words of the Lord Jesus:

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11: 28–30

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open the door, I will come in to them and eat with them, and they with me.

Revelation 3: 20

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

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

Pastor: Holy Lord . . . as we pray together:

All: As we have eaten the bread and consumed the cup, O God, may the power of Christ's resurrection come into us and make us come alive. Fill us with joy as we live each day as ambassadors of Christ's resurrection. In Jesus' name we joyfully pray together: "Our Father, who art in heaven . . . and the power and the glory, forever." Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

SHARING THE BREAD: Jesus said, "*I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*" (Jn. 6:37) Let us eat this bread in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit that is in him be in us also.

DRINKING THE CUP: Jesus said, *"I am the vine, you are the branches, apart from him, we can do nothing."* Let us drink this cup in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit in which he died be our Spirit.

COMMUNION BLESSING:

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: Awesome God, we give you thanks for the hope we have in Jesus, who died, is risen and reigns over all. Because he lives, we look forward to eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present, or yet to come shall ever separate us from your magnificent, mysterious, and miraculous love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 104 Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Nun Danket Alle Gott BWV 657 by JS Bach*

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

Alleluia!

Special appreciation to everyone who participated in this service.

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 McMorrow and her family, Bill Salvadore, Andrew Shan, Barbara Smith, Stas Czarnuciewicz, 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, Peter Porzio, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, Demares, Evelyn, Tracy, Valerie

Easter Flower Dedications

Deborah & Gary Albrecht

*In celebration of our risen Lord! Alleluia!
In loving memory of our parents &
grandparents*

Craig & Kaye Evans

*In memory of Connie Evans & Faye Robinson
In celebration of the marriage of Dylan Evans
& Marlesse Marino*

Teri & David Harvey

*In memory of Wilmer & Linnie Harvey
In memory of Harland Williams*

Thomas Kent

In memory of Louise Greiner

Gladys Kitchen

In memory of my sister Hilda Hess

Mary & Rick Kreger

*In memory of William & Margeret Faulhaber
In memory of Kenneth & Grace Kreger*

Anna & Zsolt Nagyhetenyi

In memory of family & friends

Don Nicholls

*In memory of Elmer, Lois, & Gary Nicholls,
Debra Merwin, & Lois Gerardi
In memory of Robert, Helen, Steven, Robert,
Jim, & Debbie Schmidt*

Peter & Betsy Peterson

*In memory of Pete & Ginny Peterson
In memory of Clay Pritchett*

Jennifer Plut

*In celebration of all church volunteers
In celebration of the musical gifts of our
Chancel Choir*

Lillian Smith

In memory of loved ones

Jan Swift

In memory of Ward Swift

The Trigg Family

In memory of family & friends

Carol Walker & Family

In memory of Jerry Walker

Erika Wulster

In memory of family & friends

*The lilies are placed for those
"who are loved
by NO ONE
but
GOD."*



ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Stephanie Burke
Usher: Joan Cameron
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey
Communion Prep.: Betsy Gervasi & Erika Wulster
Ministers: The Congregation

Worship Leader & Communion Assistant: Mark Nelke
Sound System: Theo Padavano
MIDI: Frank Wilson
DLP: Jen Plut

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Easter Sunday, Mar. 31

7:00 AM Sunrise Service/Blair Lake
8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Family Worship & Communion

Mon., April 1 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

Tuesday, April 2

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
2:00 PM Blair Woman's Club/OC
7:00 PM Music & Worship-Christian Ed./OC

Wednesday, April 3

11:00 AM Qigong/OC

Thursday, April 4

1:00 PM PW Exec. Board/OC

Friday, April 5

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

Sunday, April 7

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship & Communion
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Membership & Fellowship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Big Thank You to Katelyn and Kelly McElroy who helped stuff Easter eggs and to Ryan Burke and Owen Besser for hiding the eggs for last Sunday's Easter Egg Hunt. Your help was greatly appreciated!

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!

Bible Study: Please join us for 10 AM bible study this Tuesday at the Outreach Center or via Zoom (Meeting ID: 851 8394 1364 Passcode: 699382). Contact the church office to be added to our weekly bible study email reminders/updates.

Joint Deacon and Session Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 14, after church at the Outreach Center. A light lunch will be provided.

PW Exec. Board Meeting: Thursday, April 4 at the Outreach Center beginning at 1:00 PM. There will be a discussion about Betsy's Garden. All are welcome to attend. Please bring specific information about plants (type/cost/care) and your suggestions/plans for the garden.

Worship Helpers: For anyone interested in trying out these easy (yes, really!) jobs for the first time, we provide instructions and training—and would love to have you involved. 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. There is also a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Thank you! Sound system & projector volunteers very welcome as well!



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.

PW Bakeless Bake Sale—It's Not Too Late! *No fuss, no muss! No haste, no waste! Not even a pound to gain!* Make your list of ingredients, and instead of driving to the store to buy those special items, sit back and relax. Instead of shopping and baking, a monetary donation is so much simpler, and you'll know your contribution will be supporting Presbyterian Women (PW) mission projects such as PW of the Highlands Presbytery, St Jude's Children Hospital, camperships to deserving young people of our church to attend Johnsonburg Summer Camp, and many other worthwhile endeavors. Contribute to the PW Bakeless Bake Sale online at fpcb-nj.org, mail a check payable to "Presbyterian Women" to P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825, or leave a contribution in the offering plate on Sunday. Please be sure to specify it's for the "bakeless bake sale"! Thank you for your support!

Community News:

Blood Drive: Saturday, April 6 between 9 AM and 3 PM at the Lion's Den, 505 Rt. 94, Columbia, NJ. For more information and to register (recommended), please visit blairstownrotary.org. Blood drive is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Blairstown.

Clothing Drive: Cleaning out your closets? The NWR girl's lacrosse team is hosting a clothing drive Apr. 6–16 at the back parking lot of the high school. For details, visit facebook.com/NWRLadyPatriotsLax or speak with church members, Lisa Besser or Jen Plut.

NWR Musical Production of Guys and Dolls: NWR Theatre Director, James Hansen, is inviting the community to the Production of Guys and Dolls. He is looking to fill the auditorium on Wed., April 10 at 10:30 AM for the Senior show. It is free and we require an RSVP, as the ASD Students will be providing light snacks during the intermission. If you are interested in attending on April 10, please RSVP to mblanchette@northwarren.org or by calling Marinelle Blanchette at (908) 362-8211 ext. 1139 by Mon., April 8 so they can reserve enough parking. Additionally, there are several shows within two weekends that the musical will run for everyone to see. Fri., April 12 @ 6 PM, Sat., April 13 @ 12 noon, Fri., April 19 @ 6 PM, & Sat., April 20 @ 12 noon.



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

Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060

Food Pantry (908) 362-5254 Children's Center: (908) 362-7887

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

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

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