

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Fifth Sunday of Easter

(Fourth Sunday after Easter)

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 28, 2024

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Cantique De Jean Racine" by Gabriel Faure* (4-30)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Lisa Besser

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.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP:

Gail Weber

CHORAL INTROIT:

Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 22: 19, 22, 27-28

L: Lord, you are our strength.

P: Do not be aloof from us or from me.

L: You are our strength and our salvation.

P: Come quickly and help me.

L: We will declare your name in the presence of the assembly.

P: In your presence as we assemble, I will praise your name.

L: All the ends of the earth, remember and turn to the Lord.

P: Dominion belongs to the Lord. Yahweh rules over all the nations.

L: With praise on our lips and joy in our hearts, let us worship God!

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 288 I Sing the Mighty Power of God vv. 1 & 3*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(in silence then in unison)*

Merciful God, author of life, ruler and redeemer of all nations, Savior of society and of our souls, when in life we fail to feel or imagine your presence, reassure us, we pray, that you are with and among us. When our life situation seems grim and hope is difficult to let in, forgive our unwillingness. When we feel alone and abandoned, let your Spirit dwell and make a home in the depths of our lives; that we may praise your name and discover anew the life we have in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

* *Please stand if you are able.*

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Pastor: Friends — hear, believe, and accept the good news of the gospel and live into Christ's joy.

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

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S LOVE: *No. 304 Jesus Loves Me* v. 1

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP: Elder Deb Albrecht
*Received into active church membership by the Session on April 21, 2024
and being presented today is Amanda Macchia.*

STATEMENT OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Pastor David Harvey

RENUNCIATION OF SIN & AFFIRMATION OF GOD'S LOVE

PRAYER FOR NEW CHURCH MEMBER

AFFIRMATION OF THE CONGREGATION: Elder Deb Albrecht

L: Amanda, we are grateful . . . brought into our church family.

P: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into the worship, work, and fellowship of the First Presbyterian Church of Blairstown, New Jersey. We promise to love and support you; to share the good news with you and learn of the Gospel of Jesus Christ together; that we may be bound together by faith, abound in hope, and grow in love this day and forever more. Amen.

WELCOME & AFFIRMATION TO THE CONGREGATION:

L: By her baptism and her desire . . . for adding to our number.

P: Amanda, with great joy and great thanksgiving, we welcome you to this church family and invite you to share with us in the ministry and the mission of Jesus Christ, for we are all made alive in him, for him, and by him. God bless you and your family as you as we minister together in Jesus' name.

* HYMN: *No. 525 Here I Am, Lord* vv. 1 & 3

~ Children may go downstairs for Sunday School ~

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 577 Glory Be to the Father*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 8: 26–40
The family of God expands.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 15: 1–8.
Jesus is the vine, and we are his branches.

ANTHEM: "Offertory" by John Ness Beck Chancel Choir
Soloist: Don Nicholls

MEDITATION: *Vineyard People* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *1 Corinthians 13: 4–8a, 12–13*

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 335* *Though I May Speak* vv. 1 & 3

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 339* *Be Though My Vision* vv. 1 & 3

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDECTION

* CHORAL BENEDECTION: Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: "Vocalise" by Sergei Rachmaninov (3-30)

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: Stas Czarnuciewicz, Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorro and her family, Bill Salvadore, Andrew Shan, Barbara Smith, Robert Talmadge, Addie Wasserman, 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

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Bill Olivier

Worship Leader: Lisa Besser

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Coffee Hour:

Ushers: Teri Harvey & Gail Weber

Elder Assisting with New Member

Installation: Deb Albrecht

Sound System: Theo Padavano

DLP: Jen Plut

Children & Worship: Joan Cameron; *Ascension*

Faith Works: Deb Albrecht; *Peter and Tabitha — Acts 9:36-43*

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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THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, April 28

10:00 AM Worship
8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Children's Choir

Mon., April 29 *Office Closed*

6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC
7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

Tuesday, April 30

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Wednesday, May 1

11:00 AM Qigong/OC

Friday, May 3

11:00 AM Qigong/OC

Sunday, May 5

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship & Communion
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Children's Choir
11:15 AM Reception for Melanie Williams, Church Intern

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Please join us for 10 AM bible study 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 or visit the church calendar at fpcb-nj.org.

Gifts of Women in the Church Sunday is next Sunday, May 5. Anyone interested in having a part in the service, please speak with Gail Weber or Jen Plut no later than Wednesday.

Worship Helpers Needed: 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. Visit fpcb-nj.org for the sign-up link and pick a date that works for you! There is also a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

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!

Book Club: Our next meeting will take place at 7 PM on Wed., May 29 hosted by Betsy Peterson. We will be discussing Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions, please speak with Teri Harvey or Kaye Evans.

Community News:

Water Street Concert with guests "Close Drive" at Roy's Hall in Blairstown on Saturday, May 4 beginning at 8:00 PM. More information at waterstreetofficial.com.

Water Gap Singers - "An English Spring": A concert of English choral music under the direction of Joseph Mello featuring the music of Vaughan Williams, Holst, Handel, Quilter & Parry — Sunday, May 19 at 4 PM here in the Sanctuary.

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