

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Second Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 7, 2024

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Bill Olivier

**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.**

\* SONG OF PRAISE: *No. 333 Seek Ye First*

*v. 1*

***Seek Ye First the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!***

\* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Joyful music is the sound we make this day.

**People: Chains of doubt and fear no longer give sway.**

Leader: Thankful is the mood of the songs we sing.

**People: Hopeful is the prayer of the faith we proclaim.**

Leader: Jesus said, "Where two or more gather in my name."

**People: I am there among them, and I feel their pain.**

Leader: May Christ's peace and presence enrich you all.

**People: And also to you.**

Leader: With joyful praise in our lives, let us worship God!

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 150 Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**O God, whose supreme power was most tangibly seen through the resurrection of your Son, forgive us not for our doubts but for being controlled and constrained by them. Free us, we pray from our self-directed tombs of destruction and open us to a way that allows us to accept and be saved by your grace.**

**Forgive our sin of cowardice and constraint. Grant us grace to live as a people, empowered by the mystery and the miracle of Jesus' resurrection. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Hear the good news . . . be alive to all that is good and kind.

\* *Please stand if you are able.*

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

\* CELEBRATING CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *Give Thanks* (No. 647 GTG)

\* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

*Welcome one another with Christ's peace.*

~ Children may go downstairs for Sunday School ~

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERTORY

\* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 592 Praise God*

## DECLARING GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Acts 2: 42–47, 4: 32–35.

Believers become bold in faith and generous in spirit.

GOSPEL READING: John 20: 19–31

Jesus came through the locked doors.

MUSICAL MEDITATION: *April Come She Will* Craig Evans

MEDITATION: *Life Beyond Locked Doors* Pastor David Harvey

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Contemporary Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God who places joy in our souls, dancing in our toes and songs in our hearts. I believe God wanted gladness to flow like a river, so in divine love God created a bountiful earth with plenty for all to share. I believe in Jesus, who partied with outcasts and sinners, and touched the broken so they could leap and dance. I believe Jesus opened the doors and set an extra place so we could feast.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, who prompts us to smile, who sends us invitations to come and dine, who nudges us to openness and tenderness. I believe the Spirit is present every time we gather to break bread and stirs within us the desire to live joyfully and walk hopefully. Forever, I will live in the embrace of God's mysterious and miraculous love and be a witness to Christ's resurrection joy. Amen.**

\* COMMUNION HYMN: *When Thomas Heard from Jesus* Tune 442

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JOYS & CONCERNS

# SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

Elder Bill Olivier

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 the table in the kingdom of God.**

Leader: Behold, how good . . . 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. . . . Savior Jesus Christ:

*"Come to me, . . . my burden is light".* Matthew 11: 28-30

*This is indeed . . . on the last day.* John 6: 40

*Behold, I stand . . . 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: O God, who calls us from death to life: Fill us with the grace of Jesus' humility, the miracle of his hospitality, and the mystery of his generosity that we may live as a beacon of your light and conduits of his love, as we pray together in his name: "Our Father, who art . . . 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 & DRINKING THE CUP

COMMUNION BLESSING:

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

**People: For the joyful reign and rule of Christ's kingdom within our lives, we praise you, O God. We thank you for Jesus' saving death on the cross and your power which raised him from the dead. We rejoice that because He lives and lives in us, nothing past, present nor things to come shall separate us from your great love, revealed in Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

## DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: *No. 302*                      *I Danced in the Morning*                      *vv. 1, 3-5*

\* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

\* CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION: "*Song of Peace*" (tune: "*Edelweiss*")

***May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.  
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.  
Lift up your eyes and see God's face, and God's grace forever.  
May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.***

POSTLUDE

*Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!*

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### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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**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, 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

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### ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

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**Greeter:** Craig Evans

**Usher:** Kaye Evans & Betsy Peterson

**Worship Leader:** Bill Olivier

**Pastor:** Rev. David Harvey

**Choir Director:** Maggie Morokutti

**Sound System:** Theo Padavano

**DLP:** Jen Plut

**Ministers:** The Congregation

**Children & Worship:** Joan Cameron; *Jesus is Risen –*

*Appearance to Mary Magdalene*

**Faith Works:** Deb Albrecht; *Come to Breakfast - John 21:1-14*

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## THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

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### **Sunday, April 7**

10:00 AM Worship & Communion  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
11:15 AM Membership & Fellowship

### **Mon., April 8** *Office Closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

### **Tuesday, April 9**

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC  
6:00 PM NW Garden Club/OC

### **Wednesday, April 10**

11:00 AM Qigong/OC  
3:30 PM Enduring Gifts/OC

### **Thursday, April 11**

1:15 PM BWC Exec. Board/OC

### **Friday, April 12**

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

### **Saturday, April 13**

9:00 AM PW Spring Clean Up/1 Main

### **Sunday, April 14**

10:00 AM Worship  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
11:15 AM Joint Elder & Deacon Meeting/OC

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Spring Clean-up / Betsy's Garden / BBQ:** Join us on Sat., Apr. 13 beginning at 9 AM to help clean up the church grounds and work on Betsy's Garden. A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a picnic-style lunch. Bring your favorite garden tool(s). [rain date: Apr. 27]

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

**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.

**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](http://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!

**Pentecost Offering (April 1 – May 19, 2024):** The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ. Please mark "Pentecost" in the memo area of a check or the envelope. Pentecost envelopes are also located in the narthex by the bulletins.

OFFERING DISTRIBUTION: 40% Congregational ministries with children at risk; 60% Presbyterian Mission Agency (50% ministries with youth and young adults; 10% child advocacy/children at risk)

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**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!

**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 the end of April. More information may be found at [fpcb-nj.org/summer-camperships](http://fpcb-nj.org/summer-camperships).

### **Community News:**

**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](https://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](mailto: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.

**BWC Yard Sale:** Blair Woman's Club (BWC) of Blairstown is sponsoring a yard sale on Saturday, April 20 at Brook Hollow Winery from 10 AM to 2 PM. Yard Sale donations will be accepted the morning of the sale beginning at 9 AM. Proceeds from the sale will benefit service projects and charitable donations. BWC is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.