

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

10:00 AM

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

April 21, 2024

**GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

PRELUDE: *Enigma Variations - by Edward Elgar* (2-32)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Deb Albrecht

**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 STEWARSHIP: Zach Burke

CHORAL INTROIT: Chancel Choir

\* CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: God of grace and mercy, give to know and think about you.

**P: Give us hearts to have a deep love for you.**

L: Grant us your Spirit of love

**P: That we may celebrate your glory.**

L: Grant us humility,

**P: That we may worship you in spirit and in truth.**

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

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 469 Morning Has Broken*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have nibbled ourselves lost, following too frequently, the desires and devices of our own hearts. We have left undone those things we ought to have done. We have done those things we ought not to have done.**

**O Lord, forgive us, we pray, and have mercy upon us. Repair our souls and restore us to the joy of your great salvation, provided to us by Jesus, your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Jesus, who bore our sins in his body through his death on the cross, by the power of his resurrection wills for us to be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. Since Christ has forgiven us, ...

**People: Let us forgive one another.**

\* *Please stand if you are able.*

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

***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.***

\* 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, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all  
creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## DECLARING GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 John 3: 16–24, 4: 15–21  
Love one another.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 10: 11–18  
Jesus is the gatekeeper and our Shepherd.

ANTHEM: *"We Will Give Thanks"* by Mark Patterson Chancel Choir

MEDITATION: *The Love of Our Shepherd* Pastor David Harvey

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Psalm 23, King James Version*

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie  
down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He  
restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they  
comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine  
enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my  
life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.**

\* HYMN: *No. 172 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* vv. 1 & 2

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: *O God, Within the Psalms* © 2024 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
v. 1 & 4; Tune: 293

\* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL BENEDICTION: Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: *Cantata BWV 29 by JS Bach* (3-56)

*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, Addie Wasserman

**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:** Robin Kasprenski  
**Worship Leader:** Deb Albrecht  
**Pastor:** Rev. David Harvey  
**Ministers:** The Congregation

**Ushers:** Joan Cameron & Bill Olivier  
**Sound System:** Theo Padavano  
**DLP:** Jen Plut  
**Coffee Hour:** Isaiah Macchia & Family

**Children & Worship:** : Stephanie Burke; *Jesus is Risen — The Road to Emmaus*

**Faith Works:** Lisa Besser; *Peter and John — Acts 3:1-4:22*

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## THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

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### **Sunday, April 21**

10:00 AM Worship  
8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
11:30 AM Elder/Deacon Meeting/OC

### **Mon., April 21** *Office Closed*

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

### **Tuesday, April 23**

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

### **Wednesday, April 24**

11:00 AM Qigong/OC

### **Friday, April 26**

11:00 AM Qigong/OC

### **Sunday, April 28**

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Worship  
10:15 AM Sunday School

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**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](http://fpcb-nj.org).

**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!

**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.

**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).

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## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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e-Mail: [fpcb@ptd.net](mailto:fpcb@ptd.net) Website: [fpcb-nj.org](http://fpcb-nj.org)

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

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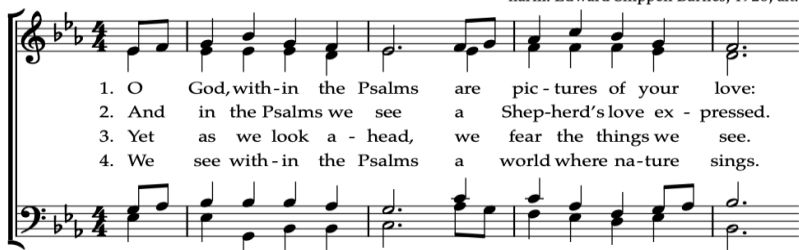
# O God, Within the Psalms

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2024

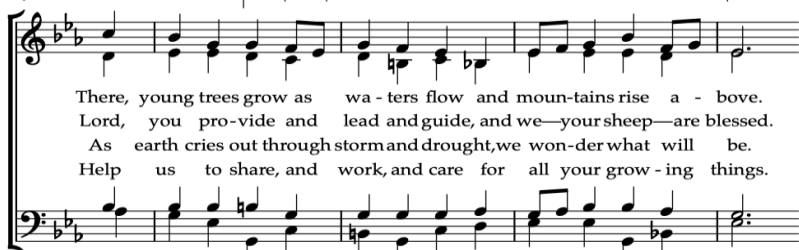
*Terra Beata*

Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915;

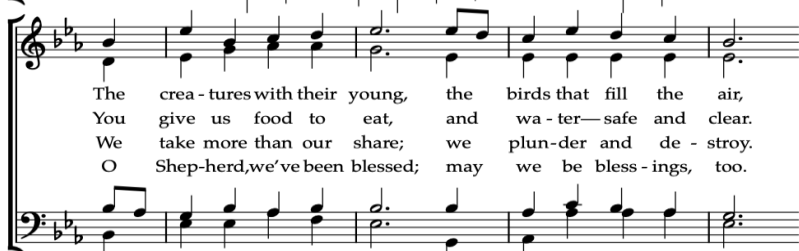
harm. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1926, alt.



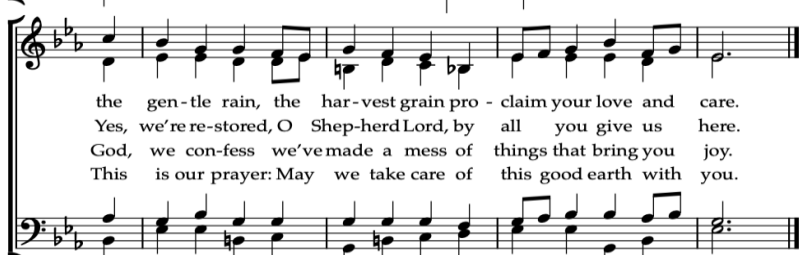
1. O God, with-in the Psalms are pic - tures of your love:  
2. And in the Psalms we see a Shep-herd's love ex - pressed.  
3. Yet as we look a - head, we fear the things we see.  
4. We see with-in the Psalms a world where na-ture sings.



There, young trees grow as wa - ters flow and moun-tains rise a - bove.  
Lord, you pro-vide and lead and guide, and we—your sheep—are blessed.  
As earth cries out through storm and drought, we won-der what will be.  
Help us to share, and work, and care for all your grow - ing things.



The crea - tures with their young, the birds that fill the air,  
You give us food to eat, and wa - ter—safe and clear.  
We take more than our share; we plun-der and de - stroy.  
O Shep-herd, we've been blessed; may we be bless - ings, too.



the gen-tle rain, the har-vest grain pro - claim your love and care.  
Yes, we're re-stored, O Shep-herd Lord, by all you give us here.  
God, we con-fess we've made a mess of things that bring you joy.  
This is our prayer: May we take care of this good earth with you.