

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

10:00 AM

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

July 7, 2024

**GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

PRELUDE: *"Cantata BWV 29" by JS Bach* x41 (3-56)

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.**

\* SONG OF PRAISE: *Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)* No. 701 GTG

\* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: From sea to shining sea,

**People: Let the sovereignty of God's name be praised.**

Leader: From the . . . Cascades of Oregon,

**People: Let the echo of praise resound!**

Leader: From the mouths of children and the prayers of the saints,

**People: Let gratitude and gladness abound.**

Leader: Great is our God.

**People: And greatly to be praised!**

Leader: With joyful praise . . . let us worship God!

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 564 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Eternal yet merciful God, in whom we live, move, and have our  
being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, cleanse us from  
all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain  
desires.**

**Forgive our sins, and set us free from a past we cannot change;  
open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us  
grace to grow more and more into the image and likeness of  
Jesus himself. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Leader: By Christ's grace . . . And celebrate.

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

\* *Please stand if you are able.*

\* CELEBRATING CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 298*  
*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

v. 1

\* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

L: The peace of Christ be with you. **P: And also with you.**

*Welcome one another with Christ's peace.*

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

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

## DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING: 2 Samuel 5: 1–10

God confirmed David king and shepherd of Israel.

EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 12: 1–12; 13: 4–5

Deb Albrecht

God's grace and power is sufficient for us in our weakness.

MEDITATION: *Creeds, Confessions & Catechisms:*

Pastor David Harvey

*V. Our God Is Able*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Westminster Confession, 1649, (6.012)*

**We affirm that God hath all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of himself; and is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting his own glory, in, by, unto, and upon them. God alone is the fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom, are all things; and hath most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them, whatsoever himself pleaseth. In his sight all things are open and manifest; his knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature. . . . God is most holy in all his counsels, in all his works, and in all his commands. To God is due from angels and people, and every living creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience God is pleased to require of them.**

**\*\*\* *The Contemporary Apostles' Creed* \*\*\***

**We 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: *For Everyone Born* (vv. 1, 3–5, No. 769 GTG)

PASTORAL INTIMATIONS

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

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. . . 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 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: Nourished at this table, O God, may we know the power of Christ's redemptive love and may we live in the power of his grace and truth. Give us courage to dismantle and break down the barriers that separate us from your love and from living lovingly on this planet, within this nation and in this community. In Jesus' name, we pray saying: "Our Father who art . . . For thine is the kingdom 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 & DRINKING THE CUP

COMMUNION BLESSING:

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

**People: By your Spirit, strengthen our souls to be brave and bold  
in Christ's Service. Use our offerings and our lives for  
your glory and gain, in Jesus' name, our crucified and  
risen Lord, we pray. Amen.**

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: *No. 561 My Country, 'Tis of Thee*

\* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"Songs of Sunset" by Frederick Delius*

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

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825

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Office/Pantry Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060

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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## 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:** Stas Czarnuciewicz, Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorro and her family, Peter Porzio, Bill & Monica 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, Anna Nagyhetenyi, Mark Nelke, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ed Williams, Ann, Carter, Demares, Evelyn, Michelle, Tracy, Valerie, Messina Family

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## ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

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**Greeter:** Stephanie Burke

**Ushers:** Gary Albrecht & Jen McElroy

**Pastor:** Rev. David Harvey

**Worship Leader:** Deb Albrecht

**Communion Prep:** Joan Cameron

**Sound System:** Theo Padavano

**MIDI:** Frank Wilson

**DLP:** Jen Plut

**Ministers:** The Congregation

**Coffee Hour:** Joan Cameron

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## THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

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**Sunday, July 7**

10:00 AM Family Worship &  
Communion

**Monday, July 8** *Office Closed*

**Tuesday, July 9**

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

**Sunday, July 14**

10:00 AM Family Worship

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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).

**Altar Flowers:** Do you have a special occasion you would like to commemorate with altar flowers? There are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall. You may also sign up electronically through SignUpGenius which can be accessed through our website at <https://fpcb-nj.org/altar-flowers/>. Thank you, in advance, by providing altar flowers! The PW flower lady of the month of July is Gail Weber.

**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!

**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. You can also speak with Deb Albrecht if you are interested in helping next Sunday. Thank you!

**Projector & Sound Operators:** There is a sign-up sheet on the communication table for projector and sound operators. Training will be provided for anyone who is interested. Please speak with Jen Plut if you are interested in volunteering.

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