

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 25, 2024

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: "Toccata" by Charles Marie Widor (5-47)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Elizabeth Topolski

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: *Psalm 133*

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

People: When kindred live together in unity!

Leader: It is like the precious oil on the head,

People: Running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron.

Leader: Running down over the collar of his robes.

People: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

Leader: For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

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

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

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

Dear Jesus, it is hard to forgive people when someone says something that hurts us or hurts our feelings. We want to retaliate by hitting back or spitting. We want revenge.

Forgive us, Lord Jesus, when we do not love our enemies or work as ambassadors of Jesus' peace. Fill our hearts with Jesus' love that we may share it, live it, and grow into it. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Friends — listen to these words of hope. The proof of God's amazing love is this. While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare approach God with

* Please stand if you are able.

confidence, knowing that in Christ, we are reconciled with God and one another. So, believe.

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

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 582 GTG
Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

* 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. 577 Glory Be to the Father*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*Being baptized today is Hadley Rose Gross, born May 13, 2024
to parents Kim and Brad Gross.*

PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD: Elder Don Nicholls

RENUNCIATION OF EVIL & AFFIRMATION OF GOD'S LOVE

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Confession of 1967 9.21, 9.22*

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for men and women when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all people, moves us to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life Christ.

God loves and accepts us in spite of what we are. We therefore accept ourselves and love others, knowing that no person has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace. Amen.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

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

Pastor: Holy Lord, God almighty. We give thanks . . . now and forever. Amen.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM & THE BLESSING

PRESENTATION OF HADLEY ROSE GROSS: *v. 1, No. 451, The Hymnbook*

***Jesus, Friend, so kind and gentle, little ones we bring to thee;
Grant to them Thy dearest blessing, let Thine arms around them be;
Now enfold them in Thy goodness, from all danger keep them free.***

Elder: Hadley Nicholls-Gross, you are now received into the holy catholic church.

In baptism, God has made her . . . Let us affirm our commitment to this child of God.

People: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Hadley Rose Gross into the Body of Christ and the family of God. We promise to love her, encourage her, share the good news of the gospel with her and teach her the way of Jesus that she might grow in the full knowledge and truth of Christ's love. Amen.

* BAPTISMAL HYMN: *No. 498 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5: 14–20 In Christ, we live as ambassadors of reconciliation.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 5: 6–9 Jesus blesses the peacemakers.

MEDITATION: *Creeds, Confessions, & Catechisms: Pastor David Harvey VIII. Ambassadors of Christ's Reconciliation*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *There Is Now a New Creation vv. 1, 2, 4, 5 No. 774, GTG*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"Ave Maria" by Gabriel Faure* 03:51

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, Peter Porzio, Monica Salvadore, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Addie Wasserman, Molly Grace Young, Audrey, Eva, Gail, Liza, Joan

Illness & Injuries: Robert Benz, Sue Bonkowski, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Thomas Cheevers, Lucy Cuipa, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Ashley Farhat, Anna Nagyhetenyi, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Gail Weber, Betty Ann Weir, Ed Williams, Ann, Carter, Demares, Evelyn, Michelle, Tracy, Valerie, Messina Family

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Bill Olivier

Usher(s): -

Worship Leader: Elizabeth Topolski

Elder Assisting with

Baptism: Don Nicholls

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Sound System: Theo Padavano

MIDI:

DLP: Jennifer Plut

Ministers: The Congregation

Coffee Hour: Kelly & Jen Hillsdon

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, Aug. 25

10:00 AM Family Worship

Monday, Aug. 26 *Office Closed*

Wednesday, Aug. 28

7:00 PM Book Club/OC

Friday, Aug. 30

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Sunday, Sep. 1

10:00 AM Family Worship

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Workday: thank you to all who assisted with yardwork yesterday at the church. Many hands made light work!

Bible Study has been rescheduled this week to Friday morning at 10 AM.

Coffee Hour: Each Sunday after worship we enjoy each other's company and some delicious refreshments. If you can bring baked goods and set up the coffee pot, we ask that you sign-up in Fellowship Hall or from the sign-up link at the church website. Thank you for helping make fellowship hour a special time!



Camp Johnsonburg: Did you, your friend, or family attend Friends Day at Camp Johnsonburg this summer on July 13th? If so, please text, call or email Pete Peterson at (908) 798-7164 or ppeterson459@gmail.com. He would like to know if anyone attended, get feedback, and see if any reimbursement is needed.

Sunday School volunteers wanted! If you enjoy being with young children and would like to help shape their faith formation, we encourage you to volunteer in our Sunday School program. We offer two classes: Children & Worship for Pre-K through grade 1 and Faith Works for grades 2 through 8. Classes begin Sept. 15 and will meet in Fellowship Hall during the worship service. We are looking for teen helpers and teachers. If you are interested, please contact Deb Albrecht at debalbrecht20@gmail.com / (908) 447-2112 or Zach Burke at zburke50@gmail.com / (862) 812-6271.

Rally Day Brunch: Join us in Fellowship Hall for a delicious brunch and fellowship as we come together after worship and communion for a time of renewal after church on Sunday, Sep. 8. If you can, please consider bringing a quiche or breakfast casserole, baked items or fruit.

Habitat for Humanity: Our church will be providing a hearty lunch for about 12 to 15 volunteers at their work site on Sat., Sep. 14. The deacons are asking for donations of fruit, iced tea, water, sandwiches, chips, and some baked goods to be dropped off at the Outreach Center no later than 10 AM on Sep. 14. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for those who would like to donate. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Cameron at (908) 459-9068. The lunch is greatly appreciated by the Habitat volunteers so any assistance would be greatly welcomed.

Worship Helpers: 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.

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 September is Robin Kasprenski.

