

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

26th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Nov. 17, 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.

CHORAL INTROIT:

Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP: *adapted from The Message Psalm 85*

L: God, in heaven, smile again on your good earth.

P: Do not hold your grudges against us.

L: Grace us with your presence; and send forth the rains to water the land.

P: Help us make a fresh start, a resurrection life, by your gracious love, renew and revive the land that you love.

L: See how close God's salvation is to those who fear God.

P: Love and truth meet and greet in the street.

L: Right living pours down from the skies.

P: Our land responds Bounty and Blessing.

L: Right living pours down from the skies.

P: With gladness and gratitude, let us worship God!

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 356 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Almighty and loving God, you do not treat us as our sins deserve but rather with constant love, forgiveness, mercy, kindness, and compassion. Forgive us when we have failed to live into and live out the essence of your divine image and likeness.

Awaken us to the constant reality of Jesus' presence and purposes that we may live as children of his love, his light, and his life; through the power and the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Psalm 103: 8-13

L: The Lord is merciful and gracious . . . as a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord is compassionate for those who fear God.

* *Please stand if you are able.*

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

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: (No. 582, *Glory to God*)

* 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.

~ 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

HEBREW LESSON: 1 Samuel 1: 1–20, 2: 1–2, 10
Hannah is blessed by the Lord.

EPISTLE LESSON: Colossians 3: 12–17
Wearing clothes worthy of heaven.

ANTHEM: "A Jubilant Song" by Mary Lynn Lightfoot Chancel Choir

SERMON: *God's Dress Code* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Hebrews 10: 19–25*
Persevering Faith: The Christian Opportunity

We affirm, my friends, the blood of Jesus makes us free to enter the sanctuary with confidence by the new and living way which he has opened for us through the curtain, the way of his flesh.

Let us be firm and unswerving in the confession of hope, for the giver of the promise is to be trusted. Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and active goodness. We affirm that we ought not stay away from our meetings, as some do, but encourage one another, all the more, because we see the day of the Lord drawing near. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 276 Great is Thy Faithfulness vv. 1–2*

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 261 God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us*

* 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!

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, Chet, Eva, Gail, Liza, Joan, Michelle

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

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Teri Harvey

Ushers: Joan Cameron & Jen McElroy

Sound System: Theo Padavano

Worship Leader: Deb Albrecht

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

MIDI: Frank Wilson

DLP: Ryan Burke

Ministers: The Congregation

Children & Worship: Stephanie Burke | "*Ten Best Ways to Live*"

Faith Works: Zach Burke | "*A Baby is Coming*" *Jeremiah 23: 5-8*
& *pageant practice*

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

{ Dates/times subject to change }

Sunday, Nov. 17

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

Monday, Nov. 18 *Office Closed*

Tuesday, Nov. 19

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
1:00 PM Library Book Group/OC
3:30 PM Enduring Gifts/OC

Wednesday, Nov. 20

2:15 PM S&F/OC

Thursday, Nov. 21

7:00 PM Session/OC

Sunday, Nov. 24

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study: Please join us for 10 AM bible study this Tuesday at the Outreach Center or via Zoom. Contact the church office to be added to our weekly bible study email reminders/updates.

Wish List for Thanksgiving Boxes: We are planning for 28 boxes from each Church. The distribution will take place at St. Jude on Saturday, Nov. 23. Here's our current wish list: canned yams (30 oz), peaches (jars or cans), and applesauce (jars). These items may be dropped off at the Outreach Center or brought to Fellowship Hall on Sundays. If you have any questions, please speak with Erika Wulster or Judy Trigg.

Thanksgiving Community Worship Service: 7 PM Tue., Nov. 26, at the United Methodist Church.

Sweets with Santa: Sat., Dec. 7 at 11 AM. Hot cocoa bar, desserts, and photos with Santa in Fellowship Hall! \$5 per person; ages 2 and under free. Register with Jen McElroy at jenhillsdon@yahoo.com or 973-879-6279.

Youth Movie & Craft Night: Saturday, Dec 7; More information to follow.

ShopRite (\$25/\$100), **Acme** (\$25/\$100), **Dunkin** (\$10), **IHOP** (\$10), **Starbucks** (\$10), **Barnes & Noble** (\$10), and **Panera** (\$10) **gift cards** are available. See Gail Weber (or Jen Plut in the church office) to order additional cards or if you have any questions about how to support this ministry!

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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