

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Jan. 12, 2025

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: "Abdelazer" Z.570:2 Rondeau by Henry Purcell (1-38) BT

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.

CHORAL INTROIT:

Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP: (*Psalm 29: 1-2, 4, 11 — The Message "MSG"*)

L: Bravo, God, bravo! God and all angels shout, "Encore!"

P: God thunders across the waters.

L: God thunders tympanic, God thunder symphonic!

P: God makes his people strong; God gives the people peace!

L: With unbridled joy and great gladness, let us worship God!

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 492 Baptized in Water*

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

Merciful and loving God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, not because we are worthy but because your character is one of steadfast love and forgiveness. We confess our self-absorption, our destructive habits, and our tendency to hold grudges against our neighbor.

Forgive us when we forget the responsibility of being your children or when we receive little joy in being members of your household. Come into us anew with your loving kindness and compassion. Awaken us to your presence and make us mindful of Christ's grace and truth that is ours to claim. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: As people of God, claimed by God in the waters of baptism, live as a forgiven people: live merciful in action, kind in heart, humble in mind, ready to love and forgive as freely as God has first freely loved and forgiven you.

P: As Jesus forgives us, let us forgive one another.

* *Please stand if you are able.*

* 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.

~ Children may go downstairs for Sunday School ~

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

* HYMN OF GRATITUDE & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 63 split vv. 1/3*
As with Gladness Men of Old

***As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward,
beaming bright; All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.***

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW LESSON: Isaiah 43: 1-7 NRSVUE
In the thick of our human experiences, God's claim is on us.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-23, 37-38 MSG
The baptism of Jesus is recorded, his lineage foretold.

ANTHEM: *"Down by the Riverside"* Arr. by Jay Whitehouse Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Enflamed by the Water* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Apostles' Creed* (*Ecumenical, p. 14*)

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead; On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 191 God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength*

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 495 We Know That Christ Is Raised*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION:

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: *"Trumpet Sonata" in D Major*
Z. 850: l'allegro" by Henry Purcell

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: Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorrow and her family, Henry Parsons, Peter Porzio, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Addie Wasserman, Molly Grace Young, Audrey, Chet, Eva, Gail, Liza, Joan

Illness & Injuries: Robert Benz, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Thomas Cheevers, Lucy Cuipa, Anna Nagyhetenyi, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ed Williams, Ann, Carter, Demares, Evelyn, Tracy, Valerie

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, Jan. 12

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Mission Meeting/FH

Mon., Jan. 13 *Office Closed*

Tues., Jan. 14

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
6:30 PM NW Garden Club/OC

Wed., Jan. 15

10:00 AM S&F/OC
7:00 PM Book Club

Thu., Jan. 16

6:30 PM Admin/OC
7:00 PM Session/OC

Sat., Jan. 18

9:30 AM Food Pantry/FH

Sun., Jan. 19

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mobile Phone Bluetooth: – If you are able, please turn off the Bluetooth on your electronic device(s). Thank you.

Thank you note from Clover Rest Home: *First Presbyterian Church members: Thank you so much for giving presents to the residents of Clover Rest Home. We really appreciate your generosity, and it meant a lot to the residents that others were thinking of them. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas season and hope you all have a Happy & Healthy 2025!* Kristina Howell (Recreation Director)

Our congregation donated shampoos, conditioners, body wash, soaps, lotions, chapsticks, and sugar-free chocolate candies to fill gift bags (33) for every resident of Clover Rest Home. Our Sunday School classes made Christmas cards to go in each bag. Thank you for helping to bring Christmas cheer to the residents of Clover Rest Home!!!

FPCB Book Club — 7 PM this Wed., Jan. 15, hosted by Melissa Randolph on Lambert Rd. We will discuss The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions or would like a copy of our reading list, please speak with Teri Harvey or Kaye Evans.

Annual Reports: Ministries and organization of the church please note that your Annual Reports will be due in the church office Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Souper-Soaper Bowl of Caring: We are planning a Souper-Soaper Bowl of Caring following Church on Feb. 9. Groups across the entire country ask people in their church to bring goods for people in need for Super Bowl Weekend. There will be a box for items at church on Sundays through Feb. 9. There will be soup to share and fellowship as donated items will be placed in boxes representing the football team that they think will win. It will be a fun fellowship and a great way to fill the shelves in the pantry. There will be a sign-up sheet for attendance and pantry items you wish to donate. (soup, crackers, cookies, soap, cleaners, etc.). If you have any questions, please speak with Deacon moderator, Judy Trigg.

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Stephanie Burke

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Worship Leader: Bill Olivier

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Ushers: Jennifer McElroy & Judy Trigg

Sound System: Theo Padavano

MIDI: Frank Wilson

DLP: Jennifer Plut

Coffee Hour: Bill Olivier

Children & Worship: Joan Cameron; Lesson: *Jesus is Baptized*
Faith Works: Deb Albrecht; Lesson: *Simeon and Anna; Luke 2:25–38*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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