

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

*Second Sunday after Epiphany*

10:00 AM

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Jan. 19, 2025

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"L'Arlesienne Suite No. 1, WD 40:3 Adagietto"*  
by Georges Bizet

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: By Dag Hammarskjold (1905–1961)

L: Great and Good God, give us pure hearts that we may see you;

**P: Give us humble hearts that we may hear you.**

L: Give hearts of love that we may serve you.

**P: Give us hearts of faith that we may live in you.**

L: Give us reverent hearts that we may worship you.

**P: Give us hearts of kindness and compassion that your Spirit may bring us alive and working in us.**

L: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**P: With joy and thanksgiving, let us worship God.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 142 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name vv. 1 & 4*

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

**Merciful God, Giver of all good gifts, for gifts given, discovered, and distributed, we give you thanks and praise, and we ask your forgiveness when we fail to serve you with joy for the gifts you have entrusted to our care.**

**May your Spirit move within us. Re-ignite passionate joy within us, and mold us by your Spirit that we may live into and do your will. This we pray in the strong name of Jesus' our Lord . Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: As people of God, live as a forgiven people; be 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: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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

\* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 577 Glory Be to the Father*

## DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW LESSON: Isaiah 62: 1-5

Isaiah imagines God's joy like a wedding ceremony.

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

Jesus brings about a miracle at a wedding celebration.

ANTHEM: *"In your House, O Lord"* by Jay Turner Chancel Choir

PSALTER: Psalm 36: 5-10 (see screen; read responsively, KJV)  
The psalmist expresses gratitude for God's steadfast love.

SERMON: *Gift-Sharing* Pastor David Harvey

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A Contemporary Apostles' Creed*

**I 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 the Good Lord created a bountiful earth with plenty for all to share.**

**I believe in Jesus, who turned water into wine, 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, to walk hopefully, and to enact justice boldly. Forever, I will live in the embrace of God and be a witness to Christ's resurrection joy. Amen.**

\* HYMN: *In Christ Called to Baptize* (vv. 1, 2, 4 No. 297, GTG)

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

## DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: *We Are One in the Spirit* (No. 300, GTG)

\* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL BENEDICTION: Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: *"Enigma Variations, Op. 36: var.9 - Adagio Nimrod"*  
by Edward Elgar

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

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## ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

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**Greeter:** Robin Kasprenski

**Choir Director:** Maggie Morokutti

**Worship Leader:**

**Pastor:** Rev. David Harvey

**Ministers:** The Congregation

**Ushers:** Katelyn McElroy & Gail Weber

**Sound System:** Theo Padavano

**MIDI:** Frank Wilson

**DLP:** Jennifer Plut

**Coffee Hour:** McElroy family

**Children & Worship:** Stephanie Burke; *The Boy Jesus in the Temple*

**Faith Works:** Lisa Besser; *The Visitors from the East | Matthew 2: 1–12*

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

**Illness & Injuries:** Emily Arena, Robert Benz, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Christine Hengel, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ed Williams, Ann, Carter, David, Demares, Evelyn, Tracy, Valerie

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## THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

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### Sunday, Jan. 19

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Worship  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
11:15 AM Deacon Meeting/FH –  
*rescheduled to Feb. 16*

**Mon., Jan. 20** *Office Closed*

### Tues., Jan. 21

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC  
1:00 PM NW Library Book Group/OC

### Fri., Jan. 24

6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC

### Sun., Jan. 26

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Worship  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
11:30 AM PW-Church Kitchen  
Clean-Up—volunteers welcome!  
Sign-up sheet in FH.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**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 such as soup, crackers, cookies, soap, cleaners, etc. There will be a box for items at church on Sundays through Feb. 9. There will be soup to share (see sign-up sheet on the communication table) and fellowship as donated items will be placed in boxes representing the football team that they think will win. This is a fun way to fill the shelves in the pantry. If you have any questions, please speak with Deacon moderator, Judy Trigg.

**Gift Cards!** Dunkin Donuts, ShopRite, ACME, Panera, and Starbucks cards are available. See Gail Weber to order or to learn more about Loaves & Fishes!

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Blirstown has called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held on Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 11:15 AM in Fellowship Hall and via ZOOM. The purpose of the meeting is to receive committee reports, and the reports of the Nominating and Auditing committees, nominate and elect committee members, Elders and Deacons, and to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2025. Please plan to attend if you are able to. The meeting will include brunch. If you are able to bring a dish to share, please sign up on the Communications table.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Church Office: 35 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blirstown, NJ 07825

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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