

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

10:00 AM

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Feb. 2, 2025

\* Please stand if you are able

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Violin Concerto No. 10 in G Major: "Largo"* (6-36) BT  
*By Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges*

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:

L: This is the day the Lord has made.

**P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

L: God invites us to come into his divine presence with joyful hearts.

**P: God invites us to open our eyes, to unclog our ears, to  
soften our hearts and become tender before the Lord.**

L: God is love. Those who abide in love, abide in God, and God abides in them.

**P: With receptive minds and hearts, let us worship God.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 339 Be Thou My Vision* vv. 1 & 3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(In silence then unison)*

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide,  
and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name,  
what our souls can no longer bear, and what has potentially  
become for us a consuming fire of judgment.**

**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  
into the likeness of Jesus, your, Son, our Lord, the light and the  
fullness of your love in the world; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Friends — live into the joyful freedom of Christ's forgiveness. Believe  
and accept the good news of the gospel!

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

\* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 304 Jesus Love 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. 592 Praise God*

## DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 13: 4–13

Pastor David Harvey

The gift and demand of love.

L: Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious  
or boastful or arrogant or rude.

**P: Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.**

L: And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;  
and the greatest of these is love.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 4: 21–30

Bill Olivier

Jesus rebukes illness and disease.

ANTHEM: *"We Come Together Here"*  
*by James M. Stevens*

Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Love: The Better Way*

Pastor David Harvey

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Confession of 1967, 9.15, 9.17*

**God's love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But the love of God is revealed in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving men and women.**

*Cont'd.*

**The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love. We are created for a personal relation with God that we may respond to the love of the Creator. Amen.**

\* COMMUNION HYMN: *No. 438    Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE: Elder Bill Olivier

L: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

**P: People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.**

L: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity.

**P: God sent the whole world God's only Son. Since God loved us so much, we too, should love one another.**

L: This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites all who are truly sorry for their sins and would humbly put their trust in him to come to the feast which he has prepared. Listen to the gracious words of our Savior Jesus Christ:

*"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light".* Matthew 11: 28-30

*This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.* John 6: 40

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open the door, I will come into them and eat with them, and they with me.* Revelation 3: 20

Pastor David Harvey

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And with your spirit.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**P: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

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

L: Holy Lord . . . as we pray together:

**P: O God, awaken within us the grace of Jesus' humility, the miracle of his hospitality, and the mystery of his generosity that we may live as beacons of Jesus' light and true ambassadors of Jesus' peace and love. This we ask as we pray together in Jesus' name, saying "Our Father, who art . . . 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: Elder Bill Olivier

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

**P: As a people who receive new life through Christ, in Christ, with Christ, all glory and honor, thanksgiving and dominion belong to Christ, today and forever more. Amen.**

## DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: *No. 302 I Danced in the Morning* vv. 1, 3-5

\* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Violin Concerto in G Major Op. 2 No 1: III Rondeau (3-57) BT*  
*by Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges*

*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 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; by severe weather; and those affected by the DC airline disaster

**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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## ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

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**Greeter:** Deb Albrecht

**Choir Director:** Maggie Morokutti

**Worship Leader & Communion**

**Assistant:** Bill Olivier

**Pastor:** Rev. David Harvey

**Ministers:** The Congregation

**Ushers:** Robin Kasprenski & Chester Topolski

**Sound System:** Theo Padavano

**MIDI:** Frank Wilson

**DLP:** Jennifer Plut

**Coffee Hour:** Joan Cameron & David Conrad


**Children & Worship:** Stephanie Burke; *Jesus in the Wilderness*

**Faith Works:** Lisa Besser; *Jesus and the Children | Matthew 19: 13–15*

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: "Love is \_\_\_\_\_; love is \_\_\_\_\_. ... it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs



E Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV)

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## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

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The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Blairstown 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.

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### THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

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#### Sunday, Feb. 2

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

#### Mon., Feb. 3 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

#### Tues., Feb. 4

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

#### Wed., Feb. 5

7:00 PM M&W-CE/OC

#### Fri., Feb. 7

6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC

#### Sun., Feb. 9

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Worship  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
11:15 AM Souper Bowl Celebration

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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.

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

**Souper-Souper Bowl of Caring:** A 'soup' sign-up sheet is available for our Feb. 9 Super/Souper/Soaper Bowl Sunday! Food pantry collection boxes are in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your contributions! We look forward to our soup reception during coffee hour next Sunday. Tackle hunger and place your pantry contributions in the team's box that you think may win Super Bowl 2025! (Below are some suggestions...) If you have any questions, please speak with Deacon moderator, Judy Trigg.

**S** - Soap ... liquid hand & dish soap

**O** - Odds & Ends: ketchup, mustard, relish, bbq sauce

**A** - Apple juice & other juices

**P** - Paper towels, peanut butter, pet food

**E** - Elbow Macaroni & other pastas

**R** - Ravioli & other canned pastas, soup

**B** - Breakfast items: coffee, tea, hot chocolate

**O** - Odds & Ends: salad dressing, mayonnaise, coffee

**W** - Wheat crackers, wheat thins, wild rice, white rice, etc.

**L** - Laundry detergent pods

