

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Feb. 23, 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *The Mississippi River - "Andante con Moto" by Florence Price*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Pete Peterson

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 37: 3, 5, 7, 39-40)

L: Trust in the Lord, and do God;

(v. 3)

P: Commit our way to the Lord, trust in the Lord, and the Lord will act.

(v. 5)

L: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.

(v. 7)

P: Salvation of the righteous is from the Lord, our refuge in time of trouble.

(v. 39)

L: Blessed are those who take refuge in God, our redeemer.

(v. 40)

P: With great gratitude and gladness, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 455*

(vv. 1, 4, 5, 6)

All Creatures of Our God and King

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

Merciful God, you see us as we are and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. When we have failed to seek or do your will or failed to treat one another as we would want to be treated, Lord, in your mercy, forgive our sins.

Free us from a past we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us the wisdom to live as faithful children of your grace and truth; through Jesus, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Graced with the creative and redemptive Spirit of God, forgiven and accepted by the Lord Jesus, rejoice in the Lord always and always be humble and kind, willing to love and ready to forgive as God has first freely loved and forgiven us.

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

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *(No. 582, GTG)*

* 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. 591 Praise God*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW LESSON: Genesis 45: 3–11, 15 Joseph forgives his brothers.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 6: 27–38 Jesus gives the Golden Rule.

ANTHEM: *"Give it to Jesus"* by Michael Barrett Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Golden Rule Folks* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (responsive) *Lord, Make Me an Instrument*
Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi (1181–1226)

L: Lord, make us an instrument of your peace.

P: Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

L: O Divine Master, grant that we may seek:

P: Not so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

All: For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 280 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (vv. 1, 2, 4, 5)*

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 446 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Ethiopia's Shadow in America:
II "His Resignation and Faith" by Florence Price*

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Judy Trigg

Ushers: Betsy Peterson, Gail Weber

Worship Leader: Pete Peterson

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Sound System: Theo Padavano

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

DLP: Jennifer Plut

MIDI: Frank Wilson

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; by severe weather; and those affected by 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 & 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, Ann, Carter, David, Evelyn, Tracy, Valerie

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, Feb. 23

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM PW Meeting & Balcony
Clean-Up

Monday, Feb. 24 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

Tuesday, Feb. 25

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Friday, Feb. 28

6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC

Sunday, Mar. 2

10:00 AM Worship w/Communion

10:15 AM Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Presbyterian Women: Following worship today Angelina Plut will present “Learn About My Rotary Trip to Japan” followed by a church balcony clean up—volunteers welcome!

Gifts of Women in the Church Sunday is next Sunday, Mar. 2. If you are interested in taking part in the service, please speak with Gail Weber or Jen Plut no later than Wednesday.

Book Club: The next meeting of the FPCB Book Club will be held at 7 PM on Thu., March 6, hosted by Carol Troxclair. We will discuss the book, The Secret Keepers by Kate Morton. The Book Club meets every 6–8 weeks, and we read a variety of titles: fiction and nonfiction; mysteries and suspense. 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.

Recital: Andrea Morokutti, pianist, will perform in our Sanctuary on Sat., Mar. 15 at 1 PM. Donations will be collected for the Food Pantry. Refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the program.

AED/CPR Certification Class: The Deacon Ministry has scheduled an AED/CPR class following worship on Sunday, Mar. 23. If you plan on attending, please sign up in Fellowship Hall or email the church at fpcb@ptd.net.

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

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

Worship Helpers Needed: 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 on the home page.

Johnsonburg Summer Camperships: The Presbyterian Women support children from our church who are interested in attending Johnsonburg summer camp. Any child interested in attending should write a letter to Presbyterian Women indicating their reason for wanting to attend camp. Letters should be in the church office by the end of April. More information may be found at fpcb-nj.org/summer-camperships.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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