

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD SUNDAY & GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Mar. 2, 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Concerto for Trumpet in D Major,* (07-02)
Opus 6 No. 7 by Tomaso Albinoni

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Gail Weber
We welcome today's guest, the Rev. Barbara Aspinall

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

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.

* SONG OF PRAISE: *Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)* No. 701 GTG
Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

* CALL TO WORSHIP: Mandy Burke

L: In the morning of creation, when chaos reigned and the earth was formless and void, the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters and whispered,

P: "Come, you are welcome in this place."

L: In the dry and desperate desert where the people fled, seeking freedom, the daughters of Miriam danced, water burst forth out of the rock of Horeb and Holy Wisdom beckoned:

P: "Come, you are welcome in this place."

L: By the waters of Babylon, where exiles wept bitter tears and could not find their voices, the Spirit of justice spoke:

P: "Come, you who long for home, you are welcome in this place."

L: Out of the River Jordan, where the prophet called, brother Jesus arose, dripping, from the waters of baptism, calling:

P: "Come and follow me—you are welcome in this place."

L: Near the crystal river that flows through the new Jerusalem, by the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations, the Spirit says,

P: "Come, all you who are thirsty, drink from the springs of the water of life and know you are welcome in this place."

L: Let us worship God!

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *Here in This Place*

No. 401 GTG

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(in unison then in silence)* Joan Cameron

Forgive us, O God, for our lack of trust in your love. Offered lives of peace and hope, we wander filled with anxiety and despair. Save us from our foolish, feverish attempts to save ourselves. Help us to rest secure in your strong love. Cleanse our hearts so we might be more loving and grateful. Keep us on the path of faithfulness so we might find those whom we are called to serve. Help us to find the words so we might confess your hope offered to all who are broken, who are lost, who seek you. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ.

~ Silent Confession ~

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE:

L: This is the good news: in Christ we are forgiven and thus God gives us hope; God gives us peace; God gives us joy so we may share these gifts:

P: Thanks be to God, who has forgiven us and called us to respond with thankfulness expressed in love and service to our neighbors.

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

No. 582, GTG

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

Hannah & Ella Burke

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:

Amanda Macchia

L: Let us with gratitude give to God with our tithes and our offerings.

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 591 Praise God*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise, Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Amanda Macchia

L: Let us pray together:

P: We return these gifts to you and relinquish our control over them, O God, that you may use them beyond us, beyond this place, and beyond self-interest that your love may abound in the flourishing of every living thing you have entrusted to us. Amen.

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW LESSON: 1 Samuel 2: 1–10

Lisa Besser

EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 10: 11–25

Abby & Emalee Besser

SERMON: "Jesus Sits"

Rev. Barbara Aspinall

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

- * AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (*Confession of 1967, 9.09 PCUSA*) Deb Albrecht
God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again, it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work. Amen.
- * LITANY OF GRATITUDE & CELEBRATION: Emily Arena & Jen McElroy
- L: Today we celebrate the blessing of God calling women at all stages in life, from diverse ages, languages, cultures, races, backgrounds and in all circumstances. We celebrate God's gifts bestowed upon us, a variety of gifts and services for the common good.
- P: We are grateful...**
- L: For women of all ages who serve God and neighbor in committees and on boards, as members, elders and deacons and beyond, for young women who serve in manifold ways and for the advisors who mentor, listen and foster their growth in wisdom and grace. For all in the church who recognize potential and promise, hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit in all voices, regardless of age.
- P: We celebrate and give thanks to God!**
- L: For women who work toward a more just world, a world free of discrimination, food insecurity and poverty. For women entrepreneurs, homemakers, students and volunteers who partner and lead in so many places and circumstances.
- P: We celebrate and give thanks to God!**
- L: For congregations, faith-based organizations and women's rights organizations advocating for and empowering women and girls. For those who work in refugee camps and border ministries. For those who provide healthcare and counseling, pastoral care. For those who offer welcome, affirmation, safety and care.
- P: We give thanks to God for gratitude and hope expressed in action!**

L: We give thanks for foremothers, trailblazers, role models, mentors, activists, educators, reformers, peacemakers, advocates, and preachers; for mothers, aunts, wives, daughters, sisters, for all the women in our lives.

P: We celebrate and give thanks to God Alleluia!

* COMMUNION HYMN: *For Everyone Born* vv. 1, 3–5 / No. 769 GTG

JOYS & CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE: Deacon Erika Wulster

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

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:

Betsy Peterson

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 together as beacons of Jesus' light and the salt of his peace and love and justice. This we ask as we pray together in Jesus' name, singing "Our Father, who art . . . the power and the glory, forever. Amen."

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Barbara Aspinall

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:

Erika Wulster

L: What is our prayer this day?

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, so that this everyday meal may become an eternal feast, so that our eating and drinking today may unite us with Christ, whose body and blood are given for us; so that we may know you live in us, and we live in you; so that we may live in your world, knowing that it is indeed your world; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 422 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION:

Jan Swift

* CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION: *No. 596 May the Lord, Mighty God
**May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see God's face, full of grace forever;
May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.***

POSTLUDE:

"Hornpipe" by GF Handel

(3-03)

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

Thank you to all of today's volunteers!

LEARN MORE ABOUT TODAY'S GUEST, THE REV. BARBARA ASPINALL

Barbara Aspinall has been a Presbyterian pastor for not quite 40 years. She has served several churches in New Jersey and retired after 25 years at Meyersville Presbyterian Church in Gillette. She and her husband live in Basking Ridge and they have three grown sons and two young granddaughters. Since retiring, she spends many hours each week riding horses.

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeters: Stephanie, Hannah,
& Ella Burke

Ushers: Judy Trigg & Lilian Smith

Guest Pastor: Rev. Barbara Aspinall

Communion Prep.: Kelly McElroy

Communion Assistant: Erika Wulster

Sound System: Theo
Padavano

DLP: Jennifer Plut

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Coffee Hour: Bill Olivier

Ministers: The Congregation

Worship Assistants: Deb Albrecht, Emily (Maiers) Arena, Abby Besser, Emalee Besser, Lisa Besser, Ella Burke, Hannah Burke, Mandy Burke, Joan Cameron, Amanda Macchia, Jen McElroy, Betsy Peterson, Jan Swift, Gail Weber, Erika Wulster

Children & Worship: Stephanie Burke; *The Sower*

Faith Works: Zach Burke; *The Four Friends* (Mark 2: 1-12)

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, Trisha Lenarze-Garmoe, 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, Mar. 2

10:00 AM Worship w/Communion

10:15 AM Sunday School

Monday, Mar. 3 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

Tuesday, Mar. 4

7:00 PM M&W-Christen Ed./OC

Wednesday, Mar. 5

7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship

Thursday, Mar. 6

7:00 PM Book Club

Friday, Mar. 7

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC

Sunday, Mar. 9

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Children's Choir

11:15 AM M&F/FH

4:30 PM Conf. Class/OC

5:45 PM Lenten Study/OC

The Chosen / Season 3/4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study: Join us for 10 AM bible study this Friday 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.

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

Ash Wednesday: The Lenten season will begin with a community Ash Wednesday service on Mar. 5 at 7:00 PM here at First Presbyterian Church.

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.

PW Lunch & Meeting: Presbyterian Women will be having lunch and a planning meeting at Buck Hill at noon on Monday, Mar. 10. There is a sign-up sheet downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

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.

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.

PW Spring Gathering: On Saturday, Mar. 22 from 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM, the Presbytery of the Highlands will be co-hosting a Spring Gathering for Presbyterian Women (PCUSA) at the Kingston, NJ Presbyterian Church. The program, *"Rewilding Faith: Tending Creation and Tending Soul"* includes worship, learning, lunch, fellowship and hands-on activities. There is a sign-up sheet downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

A flyer for a Spring Gathering event. The background is green with white and dark green leaf patterns. The text is centered and includes the event title, theme, date, time, location, and registration information. A small box on the right side contains registration details.

**Presbyterian Women (PCUSA)
Spring Gathering
Presbyteries of the Coastlands and Highlands**

**"Rewilding Faith:
Tending Creation & Tending Soul"
Caring for the Earth, Community, and Self**

**Date: March 22, 2025
Time: 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: Kingston Presbyterian Church,
4565 NJ-27, Kingston, NJ 08528**

Registration is at 9:00am and an offering will be taken.

Join us for a day of reflection, renewal, and action as we explore ways to care for ourselves, our communities, and God's creation. Together, we will engage in meaningful conversations, workshops, and worship centered on stewardship and faith in action.

Highlights Include:

- Keynote Speaker: Lissette Gonzalez Sosa, MDiv, MTE
- Learn about eco-spirituality, sustainable living, and self-care
- Worship and fellowship with Presbyterian Women across our Presbyteries
- Hands-on Bokashi Composting activity to nurture both soul and soil

Registration: PWCoastlands@gmail.com
For more information, contact Carol Hecky at Ewing Covenant Presbyterian

**"The earth is the Lord's,
and everything in it." - Psalm 24:1**

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

CCLI Copyright License #: 2309277, Streaming License #: 20761595

