

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

10:00 AM

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Apr. 6, 2025

\* Please stand if you are able

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Concerto in D major, Opus 6, No. 7 by Tomaso Albinoni*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Erika Wulster

**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:

L: Great is our God!

**P: And greatly to be praised!**

L: God has stretched the heavens above us

**P: And filled the earth with every good thing for us to share!**

L: In God, we have our being—all of us!

**P: By God's gracious love, we live, move, and have our being.**

L: In Christ's name, we gather and give our praise!

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

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: *When Mary Poured a Rich Perfume* vv. 1 & 3

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Tune 288

***When Mary poured a rich perfume on Jesus' weary feet,  
Her caring filled that humble room; the fragrance there was  
sweet. But full of anger, Judas said, "We could have used this  
more! Why was her gift not sold instead and given to the poor?"***

***O Christ, what can your people bring to show you thanks and  
love? You need no fragrant offering; for now you reign above.  
Since there will never cease to be the poor throughout the land,  
May we, your church, serve faithfully by offering them our hand.***

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

**O God, with humble and contrite hearts, we confess that we do not always let our better selves be seen (or heard), and sometimes we are more proud of our self-accomplishments than what you accomplish in us. Too casually we seek your forgiveness, and yet we know our need for it. *Cont'd.***

**Forgive us of our sin and our sins. Reconcile us to you and restore us to the joy of your salvation. This we ask in Jesus' name and for his glory. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: By grace we have been saved through faith. This is not our own doing. It is the gift of God for all people. Let us forgive, accept and love one another as freely as God in Christ has forgiven, accepted, and loved us all.

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

\* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 370* *vv. 1 & 4*

***Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!***

***Just as I am, Thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down;  
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!***

\* 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. 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.***

## DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE READING: Philippians 3: 4b-14  
St. Paul says to 'press on to know Christ.'

GOSPEL READING: John 12: 1-8  
Mary anoints Jesus' feet with oil.

SERMON: *An Odd Faith* Pastor David Harvey

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The 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.**

*Cont'd.*

**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.**

\* 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:

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

**P: God of all people, send your Holy Spirit upon us, that eating the bread we may remember Jesus' suffering and his desire to identify with those who suffer; and that drinking the cup, we may remember his blood poured out for us and the suffering of the world. Grant us grace and wisdom to live as the Body of Christ in the world today, united in Jesus' name, and deeply devoted to Christ's ministry of compassion, kindness and justice. We pray this as Jesus taught us, singing "Our Father, who art . . . 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:

Erika Wulster

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

**P: Through Christ, in Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor, dominion and power are yours, Lord Jesus, now and forever more. Amen.**

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: *No. 144 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* vv. 1 & 4

\* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

\* 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: *When Morning Gilds the Skies*  
*arrangement by Dale Wood*

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

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words.  
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.  
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.  
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.  
Fast from worries and have trust in God.  
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.  
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.  
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.  
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.  
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.  
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*

Submitted by Jan Swift

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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 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, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, David, Evelyn, Tracy, Valerie

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## ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

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**Greeter:** Elizabeth Topolski

**Worship Leader & Communion**

**Assistant:** Erika Wulster

**Pastor:** Rev. David Harvey

**Ministers:** The Congregation

**Communion Prep.:** Mandy Burke

**Ushers:** Burke Family

**Sound System:** Theo Padavano

**DLP:** Jennifer Plut

**MIDI:** -

**Coffee Hour:** Robin Kasprenski

**Children & Worship:** Joan Cameron; *Jesus and Zacchaeus*

**Faith Works:** Lisa Besser; *Jesus Breaks the Bread* (Mark 14: 12-26)

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## Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday Service  
(Church Sanctuary), 10 AM  
*Easter Egg Hunt for  
Sunday School Students*

## Thursday, April 17

Combined Maundy Thursday &  
Good Friday Service  
(Church Sanctuary), 7 PM

## Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunrise Service  
(Blair Lake, weather permitting), 7 AM  
Easter Worship (Church Sanctuary), 10 AM

## THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

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### Sunday, Apr. 6

10:00 AM Worship & Communion  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
11:15 AM M&F/FH  
4:30 PM Conf. Class/OC  
5:45 PM Lenten Study/OC  
*The Chosen | Seasons 3 & 4*

### Monday, Apr. 7 Office Closed

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

### Tuesday, Apr. 8

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC  
1:15 PM BWC Exec. Board/OC  
7:00 PM M&W-CE/OC

### Friday, Apr. 11

6:30 PM 4-H/OC

### Sunday, Apr. 13 Palm Sunday

10:00 AM Worship & Communion  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
11:15 AM Children's Choir / Egg Hunt  
4:30 PM Conf. Class/OC  
5:45 PM Lenten Study/OC  
*The Chosen | Seasons 3 & 4*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Habitat for Humanity:** Thank you to all who donated to yesterday's Habitat for Humanity lunch! The lunch was greatly appreciated by the volunteers.

**Adult Christian Education DVD Series "The Chosen":** Join us today at 5:45–7:00 PM (following Confirmation class) at the Outreach Center for our Lenten Study using *The Chosen* (Seasons 3 & 4).

**Palm Sunday Egg Hunt! Bring your Easter basket!** We will hold an Easter egg hunt at church following the service on Palm Sunday, April 13 (rain date Easter, April 20). **Egg stuffers and hiders are needed!** Teens and older kids are invited to stuff eggs this Sunday during coffee hour and to hide the eggs on Palm Sunday during Sunday School time. Kids who stuff eggs and hide eggs may not hunt for them! Questions? contact Deb Albrecht at (908) 447-2112 or [debalbrecht20@gmail.com](mailto:debalbrecht20@gmail.com).

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**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](http://fpcb-nj.org) for the sign-up link on the home page.

**Gift Cards Are an Eggs-Cellent Way to Help Fill an Easter Basket!**

Tuck them inside the baskets with all the eggs and other treats, or you can tie a gift card to the handle for a nice presentation! Through our Loaves & Fishes RaiseRight program (formerly ShopWithScrip), we have **\$10 Panera Bread, Dunkin, Chipotle, Subway, and IHOP** cards available in addition to Acme and ShopRite! Hop to it and stop by the church office at the Outreach Center between 9:30 AM until 1:30 PM if you would like to purchase a card(s) or visit Gail Weber in Fellowship Hall after worship today!



**Johnsonburg Summer Campships:** 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-campships](http://fpcb-nj.org/summer-campships).

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through OGHS to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. We will receive the OGHS Special Offering through Easter, Apr. 20 and may contribute electronically on the church website: [fpcb-nj.org](http://fpcb-nj.org) or by sending your offering to the church. Envelopes are in the narthex and by the elevator entrance.

**Community News:**

**Pedals for Progress/Sewing Peace,** in its continuing effort to recycle unwanted items properly, is having a used bike and sewing machine collection sponsored by Blair Academy. Bikes and sewing machines can be dropped off rain or shine: Sunday, Apr. 6 at Blair Academy, 2 Park Street between 11 AM and 2 PM. Questions? Speak with Kaye Evans.

**Blood Drive:** Saturday, April 19 between 9 AM and 3 PM at the Lion's Den, 505 Rt. 94, Columbia, NJ. For more information and to register (recommended), please visit [www.blairstownrotary.org](http://www.blairstownrotary.org). Blood drive is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Blirstown.

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**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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## FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Continuing with the tradition of placing Easter flowers *in memory, in honor, or in celebration of*, you may do so by returning this order form and payment in Sunday’s offering plate or by dropping it off at the church office by April 16. The cost of each dedication this year is \$12, and donations should be made to “Presbyterian Women.”

Easter dedications may also be ordered at our website. Simply visit [fpcb-nj.org](http://fpcb-nj.org) and select  (or scan the QR Code below); contribute through “Presbyterian Women” and leave your dedication in the Notes section!

**The deadline for dedications is Wed., April 16.**

**\$12 PER EASTER DEDICATION**  
(checks payable to PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN)



- A. In Honor of                      B. In Memory of
- C. In Celebration of            D. Other (specify)

| (A., B., C.,<br>or D.) | Dedication |
|------------------------|------------|
|                        |            |
|                        |            |
|                        |            |
|                        |            |

*Please print clearly. Thank You!!*

Name of Contributor: \_\_\_\_\_

-----For Office Use Only -----

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_     By EFT     By Cash     By Check #: \_\_\_\_\_