

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Second Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Apr. 27, 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Enigma Variations - by Edward Elgar* (2-32)

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: (adapted from Psalm 150, The NLT)

L: Praise the Lord! Praise God in the divine sanctuary.

P: Praise God in his mighty heaven!

L: Praise God for the Divine's mighty works.

P: Praise God for his unequalled greatness!

L: Let everything that breathes sing . . .

P: Praises to the Lord!

L: With great joy and praise on our lips, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 118 The Day of Resurrection!* vv. 1 & 3

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

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we too often despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. God of mercy, forgive us of our sins.

Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: People of God, infused with the creative and redemptive Spirit of God, forgiven by Jesus, live ready to forgive as freely as Christ 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. 104 Christ is Risen! v. 1*

* 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

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Acts 5: 27–32

God exalted Jesus and we are witnesses of God's work in Jesus.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 20: 19–31

Thomas's doubt is transformed to living faith.

ANTHEM: *"We Will Give Thanks"* by Mark Patterson Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Good News for Doubters and Everyone Else* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human and fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain, and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

* HYMN: *God, You Made Your Good Creation* Tune 422

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God, you made your good creation and you hold it in your care —

From each starry constellation to each forest under-layer.

Tiny creatures, mountain splendor, rivers, lakes and ocean floors —

You are loving, kind and tender in your care for what is yours.

Yet, O God, the earth is crying, times are changing, storms are strong.

Now the coral reefs are dying, floods are raging, droughts are long.

Though the circumstances differ, when the earth is in distress,

See! The poor are first to suffer from our greed and selfishness.

God, you love this world we live in, so you sent your only Son.

"Here on earth as in your heaven," God, we pray, "Your will be done."

By your Spirit, may we listen to the earth and to the poor;

May we care for all you've given till creation is restored.

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 108* *Christ Is Alive!* *vv. 1, 4, 5*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Cantata BWV 29 by JS Bach* (3-56)

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

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 McMorrow & 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

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Bill Olivier

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Worship Leader: Pete Peterson

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Ushers: Betsy Peterson & Erika Wulster

Sound System: Theo Padavano

DLP: Jennifer Plut

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Coffee Hour: Robin Kasprenski

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, Apr. 27

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
4:30 PM Conf. Class/OC
5:45 PM Lenten Study/OC
The Chosen / Seasons 3 & 4

Monday, Apr. 28 *Office Closed*

6:30 PM BEC/OC
7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

Tuesday, Apr. 29

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Sunday, May 4

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers for VBS wanted! We are considering holding a week-long vacation Bible school this summer if there is sufficient interest. We will need adults and teen helpers. Possible weeks are July 21–25, Aug 4–8 or Aug 11–15. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know which week or weeks you are available. You can email Deb Albrecht at debalbrecht20@gmail.com. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Johnsonburg Summer Camperships: 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.

Community News

The Arts at St. Luke's will present its second concert for 2025 on April 27 at 2 PM. Episcopal Church of St. Luke at 346 High St. in Hope. The Jan Findlay Quartet sings jazz and blues classics from the Great American songbook.

Pocono Concert Chorale Spring Concert: Sunday, April 27 at 2:30 PM. "*A bit of this, a bit of that.*" Selections spanning many centuries and styles. Music by: Schubert, Verdi, Barber, Bach, Billings, Gawthrop, traditional American songs, and exciting new works! First Presbyterian Church Stroudsburg, 575 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA. Admission is \$12.

Water Gap Singers Spring Concert will be held at 4 PM on Sunday, May 18, in our Sanctuary.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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