

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Resurrection of the Lord

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Apr. 20, 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn BWV 630 by JS Bach*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Deb Albrecht

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: Christ is Risen! Christ is risen from the depths of Death Valley to the summit of Mt. Everest.

P: Christ is risen!

L: From the jagged walls of the Grand Canyon to the falling waters of Niagara Falls.

P: Christ is risen!

L: From the empty tomb of Jerusalem to the Great Wall of China: Exclaim!

P: Christ is risen!

L: From the outer reaches of the cosmos above to the inner cells of your soul: Rejoice!

P: Christ is risen, indeed!

L: With grateful hearts and joyful praise on our lips, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 123 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

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

God of abundant goodness and great grace, for the glorious and life-giving resurrection of your Son Jesus, we give you thanks and praise. Forgive us, O God, of our sins, especially when we grow cranky, live joylessly and speak negatively about the many blessings of life we have received.

Awakened to the promise of Jesus' resurrection, may we experience the awe and the wonder of Jesus presence and the transformative power of his salvation—even as we wait patiently for the day when we will inherit the heavenly prize of your eternal Kingdom; in the name the risen Lord, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Friends — hear, believe, and claim the good news of God's powerful, life transforming, joy-generating love!

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

* CHRIST'S VICTORY SONG: *No. 108 Christ Is Alive!* (v. 1)

***Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.***

* 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: *"Offertory" by John Ness Beck*
Soloist: Don Nicholls

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 122 Thine Is the Glory*
(v. 1 w/refrain)

***Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes Where Thy body lay.***

Refrain:

***Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.***

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: *"He is Alive!"* Directed by Doris Sless
"Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!"
"I've Got the Joy!"

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 15: 51–57
Christ's resurrection is victory for the faithful.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 24: 1–12
The women and eventually Peter discover the tomb empty.

ANTHEM: *"Thine is the Glory" by G.F. Handel* Chancel Choir

EASTER MESSAGE: *Radical Words* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: 1 Corinthians 15: 1–6, Colossians 1: 19–20

L: This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and through which we are being saved, if we hold firmly to the message proclaimed:

P: That Christ Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

* COMMUNION HYMN: *No. 507 I Come with Joy*

vv. 1 & 5

JOYS & CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE: Elder Deb Albrecht

L: This is the Lord's Table, and Jesus is the host. 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. Friends, this is the joyful feast for 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: Listen to the gracious words of our risen 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

"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: As we have eaten the bread and consumed the cup, O God, may the power of Christ's resurrection fill us with the joy of life. May we lead a life worthy of our calling as witnesses of Christ's resurrection. In Jesus' name we joyfully pray together: "Our Father, who art in heaven . . . and 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: Jesus said, "*I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*" (*Jn. 6:37*) Let us eat this bread in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit that is in him be in us also.

DRINKING THE CUP: Jesus said, "*I am the vine, you are the branches, apart from him, we can do nothing.*" Let us drink this cup in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit in which he died be our Spirit.

COMMUNION BLESSING:

Deb Albrecht

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

P: Awesome God, we give you thanks for the hope we have in Jesus, who died, is risen and reigns over all. Because he lives, we look forward to eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present, or yet to come shall ever separate us from your mysterious and miraculous love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 104 Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Nun Danket Alle Gott BWV 657 by JS Bach*



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

Greeters: Burke Family & Judy Trigg

Ushers: Teri Harvey & Chester Topolski

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Children's Choir Director: Doris Sless

Soloist: Don Nicholls

Worship Leader & Communion Assistant: Deb Albrecht

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Sound System: Theo Padavano

DLP: Jennifer Plut

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Coffee Hour: Macchia Family

Communion Prep.: Mandy Burke & Erika Wulster

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, Apr. 20

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Family Worship

Monday, Apr. 21 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

Tuesday, Apr. 22

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

12:00 PM S&F/OC

Thursday, Apr. 24

6:30 PM Admin/OC

7:00 PM Session/OC

7:00 PM Book Club/OC (downstairs)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

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 or sign up 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.

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 or by sending your offering to the church. Envelopes are in the narthex and by the elevator entrance.

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 Choral 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.

Easter Flower Dedications

Deborah & Gary Albrecht *In celebration of our risen Lord & Savior!
In celebration of family*

David J. Conrad *In memory of my wife, Betsy C. Conrad*

Norm Halls *In memory of Jean Halls*

Teri & David Harvey *In memory of Wilmer & Linnie Harvey
and Harland Williams
In celebration of Dan, Chris, & Sarah*

Gladys Kitchen *In memory of loved ones*

Carol McLain *With fond thoughts of the FPCB
congregation.*

Pete & Betsy Peterson *In memory of family & friends
In celebration of Luke, Lauren,
Ginny & Ryan*

Jennifer Plut *In celebration of all church volunteers
In loving memory of my parents,
Gary & Margaret Stephens*

Lillian Smith *In memory of loved ones*

Jan Swift *In celebration of our Risen Lord
In memory of loved ones*

Erika Wulster *In memory of loved ones*



*The lilies are placed for those
"who are loved
by NO ONE
but
GOD."*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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