

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Third Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 4, 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Trumpet Sonata in D Major, Z 850L I Allegro (BT) 1-15*
by Henry Purcell

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Teri Harvey

**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: This is the day the Lord has made.

P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

L: God is love. Those who abide in love abide in God,

P: And God abides in them.

L: With hearts of gratitude and lips of praise, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 121 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright vv. 1 & 3*

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

**Gracious God, when we are burdened by life, feeling bruised
and brow-beaten, and our sins are too heavy to hide, too deep to
undo, and too real to deny, love us anyway, we pray, and forgive
us. Forgive what our lips tremble to name and what our hearts
can no longer bear.**

**Set us free from a past we cannot change. Open us to a future
in which we can be changed; and grant us your amazing grace
that we may grow more and more into the likeness and image of
your Son, Jesus, our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Christ transforms. Christ redeems. Christ renews. Christ reconciles.
Christ restores. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new
creation, ready and able to sing and to testify to God's saving grace,
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 151*
Crown Him with Many Crowns

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. 577 Glory Be to the Father*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 9: 1–20

Saul experiences and proclaims Jesus as the risen Lord.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 21: 1–19

Jesus cooks breakfast for the disciples.

ANTHEM: "*A Jubilant Song*" by Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Experience, Experienced, Experiencing Jesus* 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.

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: *No. 392*

Take Thou, Our Minds, Dear Lord

vv. 1, 3, 4
(Tune 375)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

Deacon Teri Harvey

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

Pastor David Harvey

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 power, where two or more are gathered, you are with us. Therefore, we eat this bread and drink this wine with celebration for the joy of our redemption, won for us through Jesus, your Son. Send your Holy Spirit upon us that we may live bound together by faith in Jesus' name, grateful for the life we share together. In our love for Jesus and one another, we pray as Jesus taught, praying, "Our Father, who ... 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:

Deacon Teri Harvey

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

P: By your Spirit, O God, strengthen our souls that we may be bold in faith and brave in Christ's Service. Use our offerings and our lives for your glory and gain, in Jesus' name, our crucified and risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 155 Rejoice, the Lord Is King*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Les Barricades Mystérieuses (BT) 2-43
- by Francois Couperin*

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Deb Albrecht

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Worship Leader & Communion

Assistant: Teri Harvey

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Ushers: Chester Topolski & Judy Trigg

Sound System: Theo Padavano

DLP: Jennifer Plut

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Communion Prep.: Angelina Plut

Coffee Hour: Angelina Plut

Children & Worship: Joan Cameron; *Appearance to Mary Magdalene*

Faith Works: Zach Burke; *Paul Changes* (Acts 9: 1-19)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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GIVE NOW

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

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

Monday, May 5 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

Tuesday, May 6

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
7:00 PM M&W-CE/OC

Thursday, May 8

7:00 PM Confirmation-Session/OC

Confirmation Sunday, May 11

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Family Worship
11:15 AM M&F/FH
5:45 PM Lenten Study/OC

The Chosen / Seasons 3 & 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Membership & Fellowship Ministry will meet at 11:15 in Fellowship Hall today. Anyone who is interested in planning events for our church is welcome to attend.

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

Save the Date!—Recognition Sunday — June 22, 2025: We will celebrate our graduates from elementary school, high school and those receiving higher education degrees with a special worship service followed by a brunch in Fellowship Hall. We will also recognize and thank our Sunday School staff and Choir for their contributions to the life of our church this year. Please let us know if there is a graduate in your family so that we can recognize them and celebrate their accomplishments. Please include the school they are graduating from and for high school graduates and advanced degree recipients where they plan to go/do next. Questions? Contact Amanda Macchia amanda.gildersleeve.macchia@gmail.com or Deb Albrecht debalbrecht20@gmail.com.

The **FPCB Book Club's** next meeting will be 7:00 PM on Thu., June 26 at Jan Swift's house. We will be discussing the factually based, Revolutionary War novel, [Carrying Independence](#) by Karen A. Chase. New members are always welcome, please consider joining us whether you have read the book or not. Questions? 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.

Community News

The Water Gap Singers, under the direction of Joseph Mello, will present an all-Mozart concert on Sunday, May 18 at 4 PM in our Sanctuary. The concert will feature *Ave Verum Corpus*, *Laudate Dominum*, *Regina Coeli K276* and *Requiem in D minor K626*. The singers will be accompanied by an orchestra with soloists from the chorus and guest soloists Alicia DePaolo, soprano, Katherine Hoyer, alto, Samuel Garcia, tenor and Chris Streeter, bass. There is no admission charge to the concert. Free-will donations will be gratefully accepted. A reception, prepared by members of the chorus, will follow the concert. New members are always welcomed. There are no auditions. For more information, contact the Water Gap Singers for more information at <https://watergapsingers.org/contact-us/>. The Water Gap Singers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Funding has been made possible, in part, by the Warren County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.



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