

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Ascension Sunday — Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 1, 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Concerto for Trumpet in D Major "* (07-02)
by Tomaso Albinoni

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: *Psalm 47: 1-3*

L: Clap your hands, all you peoples;

P: Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

L: For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome.

P: A great king over all the earth.

L: The Lord is king, robed in majesty; he is girded with strength.

P: Who is this King of glory?

L: Who is this King of glory. The Lord of Hosts;

P: God alone is the King of glory.

L: With great gratitude and gladness, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 476 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above! vv. 1-2*

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

**We come this day of ascension, merciful God, confessing our
erroring ways and our lack of trust. While we sing of your lordship
over creation, we acknowledge we deny rather than declare your
power over the unfortunate happenings of our day.**

**Forgive our sins. Help us embrace the mystery of the future
with hope that we may live each day assured of your presence
and confident that your way will not fail; in Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Claimed by God in baptism, forgiven by Jesus through his death on the
cross, live merciful in action, humble in mind and heart, willing to love
and forgive as freely as God 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. 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: Acts 1: 1–14 The apostles witness Jesus' ascension.

GOSPEL: Luke 24: 44–53 After witnessing Jesus' ascension into heaven, the apostles are sent into the world.

ANTHEM: "*Come Sing unto the Lord*" by Joseph Martin Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Ascending, Descending, and Sending* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Nicene Creed, AD 325*

Ratified at the Council of Nicaea, AD 325 — 1,700 years ago this month

We believe in heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontious Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, and who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* COMMUNION HYMN: *No. 508 For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

Elder Pete Peterson

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:

Elder Pete Peterson

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. 307* *Fight the Good Fight*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"Preghiera" by Cesar Franck* (01-57)

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Robin Kasprenski

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Worship Leader & Communion

Assistant: Pete Peterson

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Ushers: Jen McElroy & Kelly McElroy

Sound System: Theo Padavano

DLP: Bill Olivier

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Communion Prep.: Betsy Gervasi

Coffee Hour: Joan Cameron

Children & Worship: Teri Harvey; *The Good Shepherd & the Lord's Supper*

Faith Works: Deb Albrecht; *Paul Escapes* (Acts 9: 20–25)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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 GIVE NOW

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

The Human Family: 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, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Addie Wasserman, Molly Grace Young, Audrey, Eva, Gail, Liza, Joan

Illness & Injuries: William Beegle, Robert Benz, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Christine Hengel, Jan Smith, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, Dave, David, Evelyn, Tracy, Valerie

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, June 1

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship w/Communion
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Membership & Fellowship/FH
7:00 PM *The Chosen*/OC

Monday, June 2 *Office Closed*

Tuesday, June 3

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

Pentecost Sunday, June 8

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chosen, Season 3 will resume at 7 PM this evening at the Outreach Ctr.

Save the Date!—Recognition Sunday, June 22: 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 at amanda.gildersleeve.macchia@gmail.com or Deb Albrecht at debalbrecht20@gmail.com.

The **FPCB Book Club's** next meeting will be 7 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 still needed for Vacation Bible School August 11–15! *Come and join us for some summer fun!* We are hoping to hold a VBS at our church this summer. We are still in need of adults and teen helpers mornings from 8:30–11:30 Monday to Friday - August 11–15. If you are only available for 1 or a couple of days, we can still use your help! There is a sign-up in Fellowship Hall or contact Deb Albrecht at debalbrecht20@gmail.com or (908) 447-2112.

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, Starbucks cards, and more are available. See Gail Weber to order or to learn more about Loaves & Fishes & RaiseRight!

Altar Flowers: Do you have a special occasion you would like to commemorate with altar flowers? Altar flowers can be cut or potted; from your garden, a store, or even delivered from a local florist! There are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall. You may also sign up electronically through SignUpGenius which can be accessed through our website at <https://fpcb-nj.org/altar-flowers/>. Thank you, in advance, by providing altar flowers! The PW flower lady of the month of June is Erika Wulster.

Additional News

Veteran's Haven North Laundry Supply Drive: Along with the Blair Woman's Club, Presbyterian Women are collecting laundry detergent pods, fabric softener sheets, and laundry baskets/hampers with wheels! Monetary donations will also be accepted (donation jar is available in Fellowship Hall; cash/checks payable to *Blair Woman's Club* or via PayPal to 07825bwcob@gmail.com) that will go towards the purchase of the items needed. If you have any questions, please speak with Jen Plut or Gail Weber. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Pentecost Offering (April 21 – June 8, 2025): The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ. Please mark "Pentecost" in the memo area of a check or the envelope. Pentecost envelopes are located in the narthex by the bulletins.

OFFERING DISTRIBUTION:

40% Congregational ministries with children at risk;

60% Presbyterian Mission Agency (50% ministries with youth and young adults; 10% child advocacy/children at risk)