

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Second Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Mar. 1, 2026

* Please stand if you are able; **bold text spoken** and *bold/italic sung* by all.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Mna na h'Eireann"* by Sharon Corr (5:44)

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.

CHORAL INTROIT:

Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP: *(adapted from Psalm 121, KJV)*

We lift our eyes unto the hills and remember this:

From whence cometh our help. Our help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

Our Lord will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper. The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite us by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil. God shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

With grateful hearts and with lips of praise, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 455 All Creatures of Our God and King* vv. 1, 3, 5, 6

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

God of mercy, you sent Jesus, your Son, to seek and save the lost. We confess that too frequently we stray from your will. Misguided by our pride, we often view ourselves pure when we are stained, great when we are small, loving when we fail to love as you first loved us.

Forgive us when we have neglected to do what is right, to love loyalty, and to walk humbly with you, our God. Grant us grace and wisdom to walk your righteous path and to live faithful in life and restored unto the joy of your salvation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

God, who raised Jesus from the dead, welcomes all who truly repent in Jesus' name and rejoices when we open our lives to God's saving love in Christ.

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

* GLORIA PATRI: *No. 579 Glory Be to the Father*

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.***

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE: The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. *Welcome one another with the peace of Christ.*

~ Children may go downstairs for Sunday School ~

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 577 Glory Be to the Father*

***Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.***

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW LESSON: Genesis 12: 1-4

*God promises Abram and Sarai they will become
parents of a great nation.*

GOSPEL LESSON: John 3: 1-17

Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be born from above.

ANTHEM: *"In Your House, O Lord" by Jay Turner*

Chancel Choir

SERMON: *The Joy of New Life*

Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A Brief Statement of Faith, 1990*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Cont'd.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life and in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

* COMMUNION HYMN: *For Everyone Born* (vv. 1, 3–5 No. 769, GTG)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE: Deacon Erika Wulster
Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity.

God sent the whole world God's only Son. Since God loved us so much, we too, should love one another.

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

I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. No one who comes to me will I cast out. John 6: 35, 37

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

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

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

Holy Lord . . . as we pray together:

O God, who called us from death to life, through your Son Jesus Christ, you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love, giving ourselves to you and to the church through all the ages and in all places. This we pray as your Son, Jesus taught us to pray. "Our Father, who art . . . 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:

Deacon Erika Wulster

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

We give you thanks, great God, for the hope we have in Jesus, who died and is risen and rules over all. We praise you for his presence with us. Because He lives, we look for eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present or yet to come can separate us from your great love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

- * HYMN: *No. 485 To God Be the Glory*
- * CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION
- * CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"Erin Shore" by The Corrs*

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Deacon Meeting: Sunday, Mar. 1 (rescheduled) following worship.

Lenten Study—“*The Chosen*”: Selected episodes from Seasons 1, 2, and 3 of *The Chosen* will be shown all Sundays after church in the Fellowship Hall classroom in March, April 26, and May 24 and/or 31.

Book Club: The next meeting of the FPCB Book Club will be held at 7 PM on Thu., Mar. 5 at the Outreach Center, hosted by Betsy Gervasi. We will discuss the book, [The Door to Door Book Store](#) by Carsten Henn. 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.

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday offers a time to reflect on and rejoice in the ways women enrich the life of the church. On Sunday, Mar. 15 we will welcome guest pastor Sherry Blackman to our pulpit. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for any women of the church who are interested in participating in this service of worship.

Special Offering—One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS): Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by OGHS—disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees—serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent (through Apr. 5), this Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. Every gift makes a difference.

Gift Cards: ShopRite, Acme, Subway, Dunkin, IHOP, Starbucks, Panera, and Home Depot gift cards are available from Gail Weber or at the OC.

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 or sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Community News

St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef/Cabbage Dinner Fundraiser & Live Irish Music with Maggie Morokutti! Sat., Mar. 14 (time: 5:00–7:30 PM) at the Hope Community Center at 5 Walnut Street. \$30 per person, 50/50 cash raffle. Sponsored by H.O.P.E. (Help Our Preservation Efforts). Tickets available at Hope Junction Antiques or speak with church member, Pete Peterson, ph. (908) 798-7164.

Our Neighbors Belong—Community Prayer Walk: [Organized by Trinity United Methodist Church in Hackettstown.] Join us as we walk to show our solidarity and support for our immigrant neighbors. Sunday, Mar. 29 (Palm Sunday) at 1:00 PM. Gather at Centenary University. If you plan to attend, please contact Pastor David or Deb Albrecht (908) 447-2112. Carpooling can be arranged.

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., Mar. 1

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship w/Communion
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Deacon Meeting/FH
The Chosen/FH-Classroom

Mon., Mar. 2 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM WGS/Sanctuary

Tues., Mar. 3

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Thu., Mar. 5

7:00 PM Book Club/OC

Sun., Mar. 8

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM *The Chosen/FH-Classroom*

***Daylight Saving Time Begins March 8th!***

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour! As we “spring forward,” let’s also renew our hearts in faith and gratitude for God’s steadfast light that never fades.

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, Julie Harvey, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Trisha Lenarze-Garmoe, Brad Gross, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorro & her family, Henry Parsons, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Ellen Walsh, Molly Young, Audrey, Eva, Liza, Joan

Illness & Injuries: Robert Benz, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Christine Hengel, Michael Kelly, Jan Smith, Jan Swift, Ben Weber, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, Dave, David, Evelyn, Finegan, Mia, Tracy, Valerie

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY

Greeter: Robin Kasprenski
Worship Leader/Communion
Assistant: Erika Wulster
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey
Ministers: The Congregation

Ushers: Bill Olivier, Gail Weber
Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti
Sound System: Theo Padavano
DLP: Jennifer Plut
MIDI: Frank Wilson

Children & Worship: Joan Cameron; *Jesus in the Wilderness*

Faith Works: Zach Burke; *The Two Debtors (Luke 7: 41–43)*
