

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Mar. 22, 2026

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Symphony in No. 32 "Gaelic Symphony: II Allegro Vivace by Amy Beach* (7:32)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Bill Olivier

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 130, New Jerusalem Bible)*

Out of the depths, I call to you, Yahweh:

Lord, my cry. Listen attentively to the sound of my pleading.

Rely, all of us—our whole being on Yahweh—on Yahweh's promise!

My whole being hopes in the Lord, God's people hope in Yahweh.

Yahweh is faithful love; with God comes a generous ransom.

Abundant in steadfast love and mercy, God will ransom us.

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

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

vv. 1, 5

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

Merciful God, in whom we trust and hope, we are called to believe in you, to trust in you, to rely on you. And yet sometimes this can be a difficult thing to do. Life does not go the way we want. We confuse our way with your will, and sometimes we are constantly fighting the forces of life, like a salmon swimming upstream.

Forgive us when our trials, our temptations, and our sins get the best of us. Help us align our lives with your will. Teach us the workings of your love and your Spirit; that we may live as your children, faithful lives, freed and forgiven. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Happy are those who delight in the saving grace of Jesus, our Lord.

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

* CELEBRATING CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *Give Thanks* (No. 647 GTG)

* 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. 592 Praise God*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW LESSON: Ezekiel 37: 1–14 In and with God, we have hope.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 11: 1–35 Jesus performs a great miracle.

ANTHEM: "Abide with Me" by Victor C. Johnson Chancel Choir

SERMON: *God at Work?* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Romans 8: 28, 35, 37–39*

We know that all things work together for good, for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 85 What Wondrous Love Is This* vv. 1, 2

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining* vv. 1, 2 | *No. 192, GTG*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *String Quintet in E Major Op. 1: IV Adagio* by Ethel Smyth (3:31)

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY

Greeter: Mandy Burke
Ushers: Lisa Besser & Teri Harvey
Worship Leader: Bill Olivier
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey
Ministers: The Congregation

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti
Sound System: Theo Padavano
MIDI: Frank Wilson
DLP: Jen Plut
Coffee Hour: Bill Olivier

Children & Worship: Teri Harvey; Jesus and Zacchaeus
Faith Works: Zach Burke; Jesus in the Garden (Matthew 26: 36–56)

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, Molly Young, Audrey, Eva, Liza, Joan

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

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*

Submitted by Jan Swift

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., Mar. 22

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

Mon., Mar. 23 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM WGS/Sanctuary
7:00 PM BEC/OC

Tue., Mar. 24

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
6:00 PM Cub Scouts/FH

Sat., Mar. 28

9:00 AM PW/FH
10:00 AM H4H—Items to OC

Palm Sun., Mar. 29

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt
11:15 AM *The Chosen*/FH

**Sunday, March 29**

Palm Sunday Service
(Church Sanctuary), 10 AM
*Easter Egg Hunt for
Sunday School Students*

Thursday, April 2

Combined Maundy Thursday &
Good Friday Service
(Church Sanctuary), 7 PM

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunrise Service
(Blair Lake, weather permitting), 7 AM
Easter Worship (Church Sanctuary), 10 AM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825

Church Office: 35 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825

Office/Pantry Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060

e-Mail: fpcb@ptd.net Website: fpcb-nj.org

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Study—“*The Chosen*”: Selected episodes from *The Chosen* will be shown after church in Fellowship Hall on Mar. 22 & 29, Apr. 26, and May 24 and/or 31.

Habitat for Humanity: Our church will be providing a hearty lunch for about 12 to 15 volunteers at their work site on Sat., Mar. 28. The deacons are asking for donations of fruit, iced tea, water, sandwiches, chips, and some baked goods to be dropped off at the Outreach Center no later than 10 AM on Mar. 28. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for those who would like to donate. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Cameron at (908) 459-9068. The lunch is greatly appreciated by the Habitat volunteers so any assistance would be greatly welcomed.

Organizational Breakfast Meeting: On Saturday, Mar. 28 at 9:00 AM, Presbyterian Women (PW) will hold a breakfast meeting in Fellowship Hall to socialize and to discuss plans for 2026. If you are able, please bring a contribution to our potluck breakfast and invite a friend. All women who are members or friends of the Presbyterian Church are members in good standing of PW. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Egg Hunt for Sunday School kids on Palm Sunday, Mar. 29 (rain date Easter). We will hold an egg hunt on the church grounds following the service. *Kids—bring your baskets!* We will have a few on hand, if needed.

M&F Meeting: Sunday, Apr. 12 following worship.

Special Services: Sign-ups for coffee hour are available.

- Sunday, Apr. 19: Recognition of 1st Responders in our community
- Sunday, Apr. 26: Blessings of Bikers w/Christian Motorcyclists Assoc.

Gift Cards: ShopRite, Acme, Subway, Dunkin, IHOP, Starbucks, Panera, and Home Depot gift cards are available from Gail Weber or at the OC. Speak with Gail to learn more about Loaves & Fishes.

Johnsonburg Summer Campships: Presbyterian Women (PW) support children from our church who are interested in attending Johnsonburg summer camp. Any child interested in attending write a letter to PW indicating their reason for wanting to attend camp. Letters should be submitted to the church office by April 30. More information about Johnsonburg summer camp may be found at <https://fpcb-nj.org/summer-campships/>.

Altar Flowers: Do you have a special occasion you would like to commemorate with altar flowers? Flowers can be cut or potted; from your garden, a store, or even delivered from a local florist! Please let Jennifer in the church office know if you'd like to provide flowers! You may sign up in Fellowship Hall or even sign up electronically through SignUpGenius which can be accessed through our website at <https://fpcb-nj.org/altar-flowers/>.

Announcements Cont'd.

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 or speak with Deb Albrecht.

Special Offering—One Great Hour of Sharing: 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. Received during the season of Lent, this Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. Every gift makes a difference.

Community News

Prayer Walk is now a "Time of Prayer" at Trinity United Methodist Church, 213 Main St., Hackettstown at 1:00 PM on Sunday, Mar. 29. The prayer walk has been cancelled. Instead, all are invited to gather for a "Time of Prayer" in support of our immigrant community in Trinity's sanctuary. Afterwards, we will walk down Main St. to the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown to hear Pastor Erin speak and to enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshments. If you would like to carpool to this event, please contact Deb Albrecht at (908) 447-2112 or Pastor Harvey.

Blairstown Rotary 50/50 Raffle Tickets are available from Jen Plut (ph: 973-296-2156). This raffle supports the NWR scholarship program and other community services. The drawing and dinner event will be Friday, Apr. 24 at 6:00 PM at the Blairstown firehouse. 1st Prize is \$10,000. Ticket price remains at \$100, which includes entry for one person to the drawing event/dinner (additional guest will need \$20 dinner ticket). Thank you for your support!

Easter Flower Dedications

Continuing with the tradition of dedicating Easter flowers, by returning this order form and payment in the offering plate or mailing to the church office.

Easter flower dedications may also be ordered at our website. Simply visit fpcb-nj.org and go to our Give Now button, contribute through Presbyterian Women and leave your dedication in the Notes section!

The cost of each plant this year is \$12, and donations should be made to "Presbyterian Women." **The deadline for orders is Sunday, March 29.**

\$12 PER EASTER FLOWER DEDICATION
(checks payable to PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN)

- A.** In Honor of **B.** In Memory of
C. In Celebration of **D.** Other (specify)

(A., B., C., or D.)	Dedication

Please print clearly. Thank You!!

Name of Contributor: _____

-----For Office Use Only-----

Amount Paid: \$ _____ By Cash By Check #: _____ Date: _____

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