

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Apr. 26, 2026

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Concerto for Harpsichord,* (7:05)
2 Recorders, Strings, and Continuo No. 6 in F BWV 1057 by JS Bach

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &
AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Elizabeth Topolski

**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 100: 1-5

Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come before God, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the Lord is God.

God made us. We are God's, the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise.

For the Lord God is good. God's unfailing love continues forever.

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

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 144 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* vv. 1 & 3

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

**Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from
your ways like lost sheep. We follow too much the devices and
the desires of our own hearts. We also offend your holy laws. We
have left undone those things we ought to have done, and we
have done those things which we ought not to have done.**

**Forgive our sins, Lord Jesus Christ, and grant us your mercy
that we may live a holy, just, and humble life, for the glory of your
holy name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you
in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**May the mercy of the Lord forgive our sins, strengthen us in all
goodness, by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life.**

* 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

PASTORAL EPISTLE: 1 Peter 2: 16–17, 19–25 Christ is the Shepherd.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 10: 7–21 Jesus is the good Shepherd.

ANTHEM: "Come Unto Me" - *Attrib. JS Bach* Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Shepherd-Folk* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *(in unison)* *(Psalm 23, KJV)*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Amen.

* HYMN: *Lord, You Are My Shepherd* Tune 485 | vv. 1–2
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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, OF THE PEOPLE, & THE LORD'S PRAYER

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *The Earth is the Lord's* Tune 263 | vv. 1, 2, 4
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* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BLESSING

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *The Four Seasons - "Spring" by Antonio Vivaldi*

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY

Greeter: Gail Grube

Ushers: Bill Olivier, Chester Topolski

Worship Leader: Elizabeth Topolski

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Sound System: Theo Padavano

MIDI: Frank Wilson

DLP: Jennifer Plut

Children & Worship: Joan Cameron; *Jesus is Risen-the Road to Emmaus*

Faith Works: Deb Albrecht; *Best Friends; Samuel 18: 1–5, 20: 1–42*

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: Angela Balogach, Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Julie Harvey, Michelle Haiduc-Dale, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Trisha Lenarze-Garmoe, Brad Gross, Ed Jones, 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

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., Apr. 26

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Mon., Apr. 27 *Office Closed*

1:00 PM S&F/OC

7:00 PM WGS/Sanctuary

Tue., Apr. 28

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Wed., Apr. 29

7:00 PM Book Club

Sun., May 3

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship w/Communion

10:15 AM Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S BIKER BLESSING WAS CANCELLED EARLIER THIS WEEK DUE TO THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE WEEKEND RAIN AND WILL BE RESCHEDULED TO A LATER DATE.

Book Club: Wed., Apr. 29 at 7 PM hosted by Teri Harvey to discuss *Grandma Gatewood's Walk—the inspiring story of the woman who saved the Appalachian Trail* by Ben Montgomery. The Book Club meets every 6–8 weeks and 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.

Johnsonburg Camperships: PW supports 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 Apr. 30. More information about Johnsonburg summer camp may be found at <https://fpcb-nj.org/summer-camperships/>.

Tea Party: Presbyterian Women (PW) will host a Tea Party on Sat., May 2 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet is available. Suggestions: finger sandwiches, scones, pastries, muffins, shortbread, fruit, etc.

“Morning of Learning” at Well Sweep Herb Farm in Port Murray on Sat., May 23. Fee is \$13.50. Bring a sandwich for a picnic lunch (lemonade provided). A sign-up sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall with an option for carpooling. This outing is being organized by PW.

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 Elizabeth Topolski.

Community News:

Pocono Concert Chorale: Franz Joseph Haydn's *The Creation: Celebrating the creation of the world as told in the Book of Genesis* with orchestra and soloists will perform Sunday, Apr. 26 at First Presbyterian Church at 575 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA. Admission is \$20. Tickets are available at the door or in advance from Pocono Concert Chorale members (Frank Wilson).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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<https://linktr.ee/fpcbblairstown>

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

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 GIVE NOW



Lord, You Are My Shepherd

1. Lord, you are my shep-herd and so I am blessed; you make me lie
2. You lead me to do what is just in your name; you guide me through
3. You set me a ta - ble right here by my foes; you bless me with

down in green pas-tures to rest. You lead me be - side the still
val - leys of death and deep pain. I'll fear noth - ing e - vil with
joy till my cup o - ver - flows. Your good - ness and mer - cy will

wa - ters, O Lord; in you I find peace and my soul is re - stored.
you by my side; your rod and your staff, Lord, will com - fort and guide.
fol - low me through; I'll live in your pres - ence, for - ev - er with you.

In this world, there is much that can tempt me a - way, yet in you, I'm con -

tempt as you guide me each day. O Lord, I don't need to feel

lost or a - lone, for you are my shep-herd and I am your own.

Biblical Reference: Psalm 23

Tune: William Howard Doane, 1875 ("To God Be the Glory")

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/

The Earth Is the Lord's

1. "The earth is the Lord's and the ful - ness there - of."
2. Your rain - for - ests nur - ture the world that we share.
3. Too of - ten, O God, we a - buse your good earth.
4. May we be good stew - ards of all that you give,

Cre - a - tion re - minds us, O God, of your love.
Your wet - lands give an - i - mals shel - ter and care.
We fail to re - mem - ber its beau - ty and worth.
pro - tect - ing cre - a - tion wher - ev - er we live.

By grace we are learn - ing, as year leads to year,
Your cor - al reefs cra - dle the life of the sea.
We take from cre - a - tion much more than we need,
May we be a church that re - news and re - stores

we're called to be stew - ards, your care - tak - ers here.
You've shown us, in love, what your good world can be.
We threat - en your world through in - dif - ference and greed.
and lov - ing - ly cares for this earth that is yours.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2001

MUSIC: Welsh melody from John Roberts's *Canaidau y Cyssegr*, 1839

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