

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Resurrection of the Lord

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Apr. 5, 2026

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Toccata on Psalm 146,* Tim Topolski
Prijs den Heer met blijde galmen, by Jan Zwart

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:

Christ is Risen! From the depths of Death Valley to Mount Everest's summit: Shout!

Christ is risen!

From the jagged walls of the Grand Canyon to the falling, majestic waters of Niagara Falls: Rejoice!

Christ is risen!

From the empty tomb of Jerusalem to the Great Wall of China: Exclaim!

Christ is risen!

From the outer reaches of the cosmos above to the inner cells of our souls: Declare!

Christ is risen, indeed!

With grateful hearts and joyful praise on our lips, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 123 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

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

God of great grace and abundant goodness, for the glorious and life-giving resurrection of your Son, Jesus, we give you thanks and praise. Forgive us of our sins, O God, especially when we grow cranky, live joylessly, and speak negatively of the many blessings of life we receive throughout the day and the year.

Awaken us to the promise of Jesus' resurrection that we may experience the awesome aliveness and the wonder of Jesus' presence and the transformative power of his healing salvation—as we wait patiently for the day when we inherit the heavenly prize of your eternal Kingdom; in the name our risen Lord, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Friends — hear, believe, and claim the good news of God's powerful, life transforming, joy-generating love!

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

* CHRIST'S VICTORY SONG: *No. 108 Christ Is Alive!* (v. 1)

***Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.***

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE: The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you. *Welcome one another with the peace of Christ.*

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY: Don Nicholls, Soloist

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 122 Thine Is the Glory*
(v. 1 w/refrain)

***Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes Where Thy body lay.***

Refrain: ***Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.***

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 15: 35–44, 51–58
St. Paul explains the resurrection.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28: 1–10
Mary Magdalene experiences the living Lord.

ANTHEM: "Praise Him, Alleluia!" by Eugene Butler Chancel Choir

EASTER MESSAGE: *Rockin' Resurrection!* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: 1 Corinthians 15: 1–6, Colossians 1: 19–20
This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and through which we are being saved, if we hold firmly to the message proclaimed: **That Christ Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

JOYS & CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE: Deacon Teri Harvey

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 life-giving and life-empowering 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

"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

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

Holy Lord . . . as we pray together:

As we have eaten the bread and consumed the cup, O God, may the power of Christ's resurrection fill us with the joy of life. May we lead a life worthy of our calling as witnesses of Christ's resurrection. In Jesus' name we joyfully pray together: "Our Father, who art . . . and the power and the glory, 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: Jesus said, *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* (Jn. 6:37) Let us eat this bread in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit that is in him be in us also.

DRINKING THE CUP: Jesus said, *"I am the vine, you are the branches, apart from him, we can do nothing."* Let us drink this cup in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit in which he died be our Spirit.

COMMUNION BLESSING:

Deacon Teri Harvey

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Awesome God, we give you thanks for the hope we have in Jesus, who died, is risen and reigns over all. Because he lives, we look forward to eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present, or yet to come shall ever separate us from your mysterious and miraculous love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 104 Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Tu es Petra, toccata by Henri Mulet*

Tim Topolski



ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY

Greeters: Deb & Gary Albrecht
Ushers: Joan Cameron, Carissa Plut
Worship Leader & Communion Assistant: Teri Harvey
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey
Ministers: The Congregation

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti
Organist: Tim Topolski
Offertory Soloist: Don Nicholls
Sound System: Theo Padavano
MIDI: Frank Wilson **DLP:** --
Communion Prep.: Mandy Burke

Easter Flower Dedications

- Deborah & Gary Albrecht *In loving memory of our parents and
grandparents
In celebration of our risen Lord! Alleluia!*
- David J. Conrad *In memory of my wife, Betsy C. Conrad*
- Norm Halls *In memory of Jean Halls*
- Teri & David Harvey *In memory of Wilmer & Linnie Harvey
and Harland Williams
In celebration of our children*
- Don & Cathy Nicholls *In memory of Helen, Robert Schmidt
In memory of Lois & Elmer Nicholls*
- Bill Olivier *In memory of Terry Olivier*
- Pete Peterson *In memory of Clayton Page Pritchett
In memory of Pete & Ginny Peterson
In celebration of Betsy, Luke, Lauren,
Ginny & Ryan
In honor of Dusty!*
- Jennifer Plut *In celebration of all church volunteers
In loving memory of my parents,
Gary & Margaret Stephens*
- Lillian Smith *In memory of loved ones*
- Jan Swift *In loving memory of Ward & Kenneth
Swift*
- Lily & Frank Wilson *In honor of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ
In memory of our departed loved ones
In prayer for unsaved loved ones*
- Erika Wulster *In memory of family & friends*



*The lilies are placed for those
"who are loved
by NO ONE
but
GOD."*

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, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Trisha Lenarzegarmoe, Brad Gross, Ed Jones, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorrow & 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

Easter Sun., Apr. 5

7:00 AM Family Worship/Blair Lake
8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Family Worship

Mon., Apr. 6 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM WGS/Sanctuary

Tue., Apr. 7

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

Sun., Apr. 12

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM M&F Meeting/FH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No coffee hour today - have a blessed Easter!

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 OGH—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.

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

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 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.

For more information on these special services,
visit <https://fpcb-nj.org/worship/specialworshipservices/>

Johnsonburg Summer Campships: 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-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 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/>.

Community News

Andrea Morokutti's first recital at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance in Britton Recital Hall TODAY at 4:30 PM – Livestream: <https://smt.d.umich.edu/live-stream-britton/>

Jan Swift Artist Reception: Saturday, April 11 • 1–4 PM. Help celebrate her life's work at Gallery 23, right here in Blirstown at 23 Main Street! Enjoy an afternoon of beautiful artwork, fellowship, and creativity—and take advantage of a special offer: 10% off one of Jan's paintings throughout the month of April!

Blirstown Rotary 50/50 Raffle Tickets are available from Jen Plut. This raffle supports the NWR scholarship program and other community services. The (optional) drawing/dinner event will be Friday, Apr. 24 at 6:00 PM at the Blirstown 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). Ph: 973-296-2156. Thank you for your support!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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<https://linktr.ee/fpcbblirstown>

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

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