

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 3, 2026

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Adagio for Strings" by Samuel Barber* (8:54)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Lisa Besser

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:

Almighty God, grace this church with your blessing and love this day.

Let the faithful find salvation and the careless be renewed.

Let the doubting find faith and the worried be renewed.

Let the broken experience healing, and the weary find rest.

Let the aged receive peace and the young be inspired.

Let us all have grateful hearts and joyful praise flow from our lips.

With joyful praise, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 288 I Sing the Mighty Power of God* vv. 1-2

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

Almighty and merciful God, you raised Jesus from the grave, shattering the power of sin and demonstrating divine victory over death. We confess we neglect to see and feel the pain of others by overlooking the poor and the hungry and not noticing the broken within our midst. We walk by those in need and even abuse the earth that you have made.

Forgive our sin, O God. Awaken us to your power to change the things that need to be changed. Help us to know the abundant joy of your salvation, to grow in the goodness of your love, and to bravely live and be led into the wonder of your grace and truth. In the strong name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Baptized in Jesus' name and forgiven by Jesus, be ready to forgive to live and forgive as freely as Christ has first freely loved and forgiven us.

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

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 304 Jesus Loves Me!* v. 1

* 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

GOSPEL LESSONS:

John 6: 25–35

Jesus declares himself the bread of life.

John 6: 48–59

In eating the bread, Jesus promises to remain in us and be with us.

ANTHEM: *"We Come Together Here"* by J. Stevens Chancel Choir

SERMON SERIES: *Jesus said . . .* Pastor David Harvey
II. *"I am the Bread of Life."*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us to the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all the ministries of the church.

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. 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

PASTORAL INTIMATIONS:

Pastor David Harvey

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

Elder Lisa Besser

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

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: We give ourselves to you; and with the church through all the ages and in all places, we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ, who 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:

Offertory: *"I Am the Bread of Life" (John Michel Talbot)*

COMMUNION BLESSING:

Elder Lisa Besser

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

We give you thanks, great God, for the hope we have in Jesus, who died, is risen and rules over all. We praise you for his comforting and guiding presence with us, for the bread which is his body and the cup which is his blood that nurtures and nourishes us with his divine grace. Because Jesus lives, we look to eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present or yet to come can separate us from your Son's great love; Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 422 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"Intermezzo" from Cavalleria Rusticana* (3:00)
by Pietro Mascagni

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY

Greeter: Mandy Burke

Ushers: Joan Cameron, Lillian Smith

Worship Leader & Communion

Assistant: Lisa Besser

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Sound System: Theo Padavano

MIDI: Frank Wilson

DLP: Jennifer Plut

Communion Prep: Robin Kasprenski

Children & Worship: Teri Harvey; *Jesus is Risen-the Road to Emmaus*

Faith Works: Zach Burke; *Courageous Friends; Daniel 3: 1-30*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“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 is 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. **[Projector Helper Needed May 10.]**

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!

The Chosen: An episode of *The Chosen* will be shown in Fellowship Hall today following worship. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Water Gap Singers, under the direction of Joseph Mello, will present a Brahms concert on Sunday, May 17 at 4 PM in our Sanctuary. The concert will feature *Liebeslieder Walzer (Lovesong Waltzes)*. There is no admission charge to the concert. Free-will donations will be gratefully accepted. A reception, prepared by members of the chorus, will follow the concert. New members are always welcomed. There are no auditions. For more information, visit watergapsingers.org.

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., May 3

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

Mon., May 4 *Office Closed*


7:00 PM WGS/Sanctuary

Tue., May 5

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

Sun., May 10

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



THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus knew that people would starve without physical bread to eat and water to drink. But he also knew they would die spiritually if they weren't fed by him.

Find and circle all the words horizontally. Then, starting on the top line and moving across from left to right, read John 6:35 (NIV) and write the Bible verse on the dashes.

JOHN 6:35

WORD LIST

am and be believes
 bread comes I in
 he hungry go He
 life me me never
 to never the of will
 who will thirsty who

t e l r s u v w a m x y z a b t h e i
 j k l m b r e a d n p o f q r l i f e
 d H e e f g h i w h o j k l m n p q r
 b c d f c o m e s g h i j t o k l m e
 n w i l l o p q r s t u n e v e r w
 z y z b c a g o b c d e f g h i j k l
 m h u n g r y n a n d o p q r s t u v
 w x y z a b c d e f g h i j h e k l m
 w h o n o b e l i e v e s p q r s t u
 v w x y z i n a b c d e f g h i j k l
 m n o p q r s t m e u v w x y z a b c
 d e f w i l l g h i j k l m n o p q r
 s t u v w x y n e v e r z a b c d b e
 f g h i j k l m n o p q t h i r s t y

“ _____ ”

_____ , _____

_____ ”

Answer: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35, NIV