

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

10:00 AM



May 31, 2026

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus"* (12.10)  
*by Ralph Vaughn Williams*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Pete Peterson

**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

\* CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Attributed to Benedict of Nursia, ca. 480-547)*

Gracious and Holy God, give us diligence to seek you.

**Give us wisdom to perceive you.**

Give us patience to wait for you and on you.

**Give us a mind, O God, to meditate on you.**

Give us eyes to behold you; and ears to listen for your word.

**Give us grateful hearts, O God, and lips of praise that we may worship you.**

Let us worship God.

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 138 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*

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

**Eternal God, King of the Universe, in whom we live, move, and have our being, whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Forgive and cleanse us from our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts, we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through King Jesus, your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Friends — we did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear; but we have received a spirit of adoption, that we are children of God most high; and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

**Imperfect people though we are, in Christ, by the power of the Spirit, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God, who claims and calls us by name. Amen.**

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

\* 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

EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 13: 11–13

Paul signs off in the name of the Triune God.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 8: 21–30; John 18: 33–39

Pilate and Jesus discuss Jesus' kingship.

DUET: *"O Lovely Peace" by G.F. Handel from Judas Maccabeus*  
Elizabeth Toploski, Alto & Maggie Morokutti, Soprano

SERMON SERIES: **"I AM" SAYINGS OF JESUS:** Pastor David Harvey  
VI. *"I Am a King."*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God . . . and we trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet, God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.**

**In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and people. Amen.**

## INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

*Being installed as a deacon is Kelly McElroy*

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE: *1 Corinthians 12: 4-7, 27* Elder Deb Albrecht  
There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

**By the power and might of your Spirit, O Christ, may we too, seek not to be served but to serve, in your name. Amen.**

STATEMENT ON THE GIFT OF INSTALLATION: Pastor David Harvey

PRESENTATION OF DEACON TO BE INSTALLED: Elder Deb Albrecht  
Mr. Moderator, Deacon Kelly McElroy, having been elected again to active service by the vote of this congregation, may now be installed to office.

### QUESTIONS OF AFFIRMATION FOR OFFICER

ALREADY ORDAINED: Pastor David Harvey

Kelly, you have been called again to the position of servant leadership in and for this church. Do you welcome the work for which you have been chosen, and will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in God's promises through and in the name of Jesus, our Lord?

**Officer: I do and I will.**

### QUESTIONS OF AFFIRMATION TO THE CONGREGATION:

Elder Deb Albrecht

Do we, the members of the Church, accept this young woman as a deacon, chosen by God through the voice of the congregation to lead us in the ways of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

Do we agree to encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

**We do.**

INSTALLATION BLESSING: Pastor David Harvey

\* HYMN: *No. 155 Rejoice the Lord Is King*

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

## DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: *No. 139 Come, Thou Almighty King*

\* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"Concerto for Cello in a minor" - Allegretto  
by Camille Saint-Saens*

*Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!*

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### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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**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, Brad Gross, Michelle Haiduc-Dale, Julie Harvey, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Ed Jones, Tracy Lance, Trisha Lenarze-Garmoe, 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, Joseph Mello, Karolina Plut, Jan Smith, Jan Swift, Jim Walsh, Ben Weber, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Annie, Carter, Dave, David, Evelyn, Mia, Tracy, Valerie

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### 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

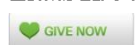
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<https://linktr.ee/fpcbblairstown>

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

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## ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY

**Greeter:** Gary Albrecht  
**Ushers:** Betsy Peterson, Lillian Smith  
**Worship Leader:** Pete Peterson  
**Pastor:** Rev. David Harvey  
**Ministers:** The Congregation

**Choir Director:** Maggie Morokutti  
**Sound System:** Theo Padavano  
**MIDI:** Frank Wilson  
**DLP:** Jennifer Plut  
**Coffee Hour:** Joan Cameron

## THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

### Trinity Sun., May 31

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal  
 10:00 AM Worship  
 10:15 AM Sunday School  
 11:30 AM Joint Deacon/Elder Meeting

**Mon., June 1** *Office Closed*

### Tue., June 2

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

### Sun., June 7

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



## JOYFUL PSALMS

Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are happy songs of praise.  
 They all begin and end with the same sentence.

*Put the words below in alphabetical order in the boxes. Then read down  
 the second column to discover the special sentence from Psalms!*



FEAST  
 KHAKI  
 MOUTH  
 ESSAY  
 LLAMA  
 ORBIT  
 CARRY  
 UDDER  
 BRUSH  
 ITEMS  
 APPLE  
 LEARN  
 CIDER






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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Thank you** to those who were able to help clean up the church grounds Saturday morning!

**Joint Elder/Deacon Meeting:** Today following worship.

The **FPCB Book Club's** next meeting will be 6:30 PM on Wed., June 10 at Mandy Burke's house (15 Liberty Lane, Mt. Bethel). We will be discussing the book "In the Country of the Young" by Lisa Carey. New members are always welcome, please consider joining us whether you have read the book or not. Questions? Please speak with Teri Harvey.

**Recognition Sunday, June 14:** Please mark your calendar for a very special Sunday where we will recognize and celebrate our graduates during the 10 AM worship service. Whether it's graduation from elementary school, the completion of a graduate degree or anything in between, we want to honor those individuals and their accomplishments. You don't want to miss this celebration and wonderful gathering following worship, so mark your calendars! To ensure your graduate is included, please email the church office at [fpcb@ptd.net](mailto:fpcb@ptd.net) with their name, school and graduation year by Sunday, June 7.

**Help needed with our Tropical Trek Vacation Bible School!**

Can you spare some time to help decorate? Would you like to lead an activity? Or guide a group of kids? Can you help with registration and greeting? Even if you can only help for a couple of days, we can use your help. We need people to help with decorating and set-up to get ready for VBS the week of July 20-24 and we need group guides and activity leaders. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. You can also contact Deb Albrecht at [debalbrecht20@gmail.com](mailto:debalbrecht20@gmail.com) or call (908) 447-2112) to volunteer or for more information.

**Church Treasurer:** Enjoy working with numbers? Our church is seeking a volunteer Treasurer to help support this ministry of the church. If you are organized, detail-oriented, and willing to serve, we would love to hear from you! Please contact the church office for more information.

**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!

**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! The PW flower coordinator of the month of June is Gail Weber. 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/>