



First Presbyterian Church

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023, 10:00 AM

GATHERING

Handbell Chimes – *The ringing of the chimes invites you to a time of Rest... Renewal... Hope*

Prelude

Andante Grazioso by Kate Boundy

Lucas Brown, organ

Opening Sentences (from Psalm 103:1-4)

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

All: Bless God's holy name.

One: God forgives. God heals. God transforms with steadfast love.

All: Bless God's holy name

* **Hymn #356** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

* **Invitation to Experience God's Grace**

One: Before we can hear God's truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that hinders us from honestly acknowledging our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

* **Laying Down Our Burdens**

All: Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

* **Silent Prayer**

* **Declaration of Forgiveness**

One: The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed and restored to God's path of righteousness. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* **Celebrating God's Forgiveness #579** *Glory Be to the Father*

*** Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Time with the Children

Celebrating the Life of the Church

THE WORD

*** Prayer for Illumination**

All: Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Exodus 14:19-31

19 The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. **20** It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. **22** The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. **23** The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. **24** At the morning watch the LORD, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. **25** He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." **27** So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. **28** The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. **29** But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. **31** Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against

the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

One: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea* Rev. Marvin Lindsay

*** We Affirm our Faith** *from 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 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. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

*** Service of Commissioning**

GIVE THANKS

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

[Practicing Abundant Generosity](https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterian11244/give/now) <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterian11244/give/now>



Offertory: *Now let us all Praise God and Sing*, by Gordon Young, Chancel Choir

* Doxology #592 *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

* Prayer of Dedication

LEAVE TO SERVE

* **Hymn #115** *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

* **Charge and Benediction**

Sending Music *Grand Chœur Sortie* by Alexandre Guilmant
Lucas Brown, organ

Please use the Postlude time and music to reflect on today's worship experience and how it will support you in the week to come.

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THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given in memory of Betty Westermaier by her niece, Betsy Westermaier.

Last week's flowers were given in memory of Allen M. Ritchie by Al and Ginny Ritchie.

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH! It is good to have you here in person or online. Please be in touch if you have news to share or would like more information or to talk to a pastor. Staff contact information is below. Read full announcements in our weekly [email newsletter](#), available on the church website. Subscribe on the [Contact Us](#) tab.

NURSERY care is available in the Hospitality Center - across from Fellowship Hall.

PASTOR NIKKI'S BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS @ 7 - Pastor Nikki is hosting a Bible Study via Zoom on the book of Genesis entitled "Genesis: Relational and Family

Dynamics." The reading schedule is linked on the Adult Ed page of the website. The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81798184993>, and we will also meet in person at pre-determined times. Please contact Pastor Nikki if you have questions or join us on Zoom!

PORCH BIBLE STUDY EVENTS:

- Bible Study, September 19th, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Church Hospitality Room. Topic: The Book of Esther.
- October's Lunch (date TBD) will return to the Legacy Diner, 136 S White Horse Pike, Audubon.
- We will go back to 7 p.m. Zoom meetings in October, when we will study *Life Lessons in Colossians and Philemon* by Pastor Max Lucado. All are welcome. If you are interested in being on the Porch Study email list, contact Deb Nussbaum at debranussbaum1987@gmail.com or call the church office.

CHERISHED women of First Presbyterian! If you're looking for a Bible study, a walking group, a quilting group, or any number of things, click her to check out the fall activities that Presbyterian Women are offering: <https://bit.ly/3R1dooF>

JUSTICE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- **Sunday, September 17th** there will be a **March to End Fossil Fuels** in New York City. For more details and to sign up go to <https://actionnetwork.org/events/faith-hub-the-march-to-end-fossil-fuels?source=Medford>.
- **September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.** Just like 911, 988 can be dialed by anyone, anywhere to connect to the help they need. It's free, confidential and available nationwide, and people experiencing a mental health crisis or emotional distress can call, text or chat with mental health professionals in real time.

A Message from Paul: During the pandemic, various government agencies increased the amount of food that was available to impoverished and unsheltered people. Sadly, most of those programs have expired and there is a definite decline in the amount of food available to us from the Food Bank of South Jersey. Don't be alarmed. We have not run out of food. However, we are preparing for this trend to continue so we ask you to consider the following needs when donating food and personal care items:

- The need for diapers remains strong, size 2-6 in particular.
- Baby wipes
- Jars of Peanut Butter no larger than 16 oz
- 1 lb. Bags of dried beans of any variety
- Canned beans of any variety.

"For me, an area of moral clarity is this: When you're in front of someone who's suffering and you have the tools at your disposal to alleviate that suffering or even eradicate it, you act.

- Paul Farmer, Infectious Disease Expert and Humanitarian

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM "Now let us all Praise God and Sing" by Gordon Young.

Now let us all praise God and sing
Our great Redeemer's praise;
That we may all with one accord
Our joyful voices raise.
Sing Alleluia!
All ye servants of the Lord,
Praise Him forever,
Sing Jehovah's mighty power,
Praise Him forever.
Sing of His righteousness,
Praise Him forever.

COMING THIS WEEK:

Discipleship Class



When & Where: Sundays after worship in the Bean Parlor, Sept. 17 to Oct. 8. Wednesdays, Sept. 13 to Oct. 11, 7:00 PM, online.

Register: For Sundays, use the first QR Code or go to <https://bit.ly/3OIzERz>. For Wednesdays, use the second QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/3qzB6Oh>.



What: In this four-week series, you'll explore how you can follow Jesus Christ through worship, service, and *membership* at First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield. Through reading the Bible and conversations, you'll learn how prayer and worship can strengthen your relationships with God and others, discover your calling to increase peace, freedom, and human fulfillment in God's world, and learn how

we as Presbyterians make decisions. You'll meet people seeking new connections and longtime members of FPC-Haddonfield. A building tour is included!

Discovering God's Vision For Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts

When: Sunday mornings after worship beginning September 17th

Where: The Hospitality Center

Contact: Rev. Nikki Passante, NPassante@HaddonfieldPres.org

What: Classes begin September 17th and will run for 6 weeks, through October 22nd. We will learn about our Spiritual Gifts- we'll both take a Spiritual Gifts Inventory and score it. Topics will include: *What Does God Want me to Do with My Life? Who Am I? What Makes me Unique? Your Calling. God's Vision and Your Vision Coming Together.* This offering is generously provided for by Stephen Ministries. All are welcome.

STARTING October 1, you can have your blood pressure taken in the Bean Parlor following morning worship. Screenings will occur monthly. If any medical

professionals are interested in supporting this ministry, please email Linda O'Neill at ElonMail@yahoo.com or Bonnie Manskopf at BonnieManskopf@yahoo.com.

NEW Backpacks and School Supplies Collection- We are now collecting backpacks and school supplies for kids served by Camden Community Center. Look for sales when you shop and bring donations to worship or drop off at the office. Needs include:

- Erasers
- Washable Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Watercolor Paint
- Crayons
- Art Smock
- Glue Sticks
- 12" Ruler
- Handheld Pencil Sharpeners
- Junior Scissors with 5" Blunt Tip
- Pencil Box or Pouch
- Pocket Folders
- 3-Ring Binders - 1" or 1 1/2 "
- Composition Notebooks
- Loose Leaf Filler Paper - Wide Rule
- Tissue Packets
- Calculator
- Backpacks (esp. for Grades 3-8)

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 09/10/23: 120 in person and 14 online.

2023 CHURCH OFFERING UPDATE - Please note that target numbers on the right now represent a 12-month budget.

	<u>Received to date</u>	<u>Twelve-month budget goal</u>
Envelope Giving:	\$ 415,926.00	\$ 570,270.00
Loose Offering:	\$ 7,455.00	\$ 12,000.00
Per Capita:	\$ 8,777.00	\$ 16,000.00

Katie Beth McBurnie will be taking a leave of absence through November 8th and the Christian Education Committee will be managing in her absence.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these individuals and situations throughout the week. If you would like to add a personal prayer request, please contact one of the pastors. In making requests on behalf of others, please obtain the permission of the person needing prayer. The requestor will have their name printed as the originator of the request. Pastors will revisit these requests every 30 days.

Prayers for the Church

- Pray for the people, government, and country of **Ukraine** as war continues.
- Pray for **Morocco**.
- Pray for **Libya**.
- Pray for **Amy** who is undergoing brain surgery this week (**9/12-J. Russell**)
- Pray for **Rob** and all those who surround him(**9/11-pastors**)
- Pray for the Fitzgerald family who are living through the midst of so much. Pray specifically for **Karen, her husband, and their three young adult children** who are in college- each with their own challenges (**9/11-T. Adkins**)

- Pray for **Viola** and all those surrounding her. God knows the needs (9/11-V. Bradshaw)
- Please pray for **Annette and David**, and their family and friends. God knows the needs (9/9-pastors)
- Pray for **Maria** who is dealing with health issues (9/7-L. O'Neill)
- Please pray for **Jeff** who is living with cancer, and pray also for his wife **Wanda** (9/4-Seddon family)
- Continue in prayer for **Isabel Pross** as she continues cancer treatment (9/2-pastors)
- Pray for the **families and the victims on August 23rd's mass shooting** in Trabuco Canyon, California, that left 3 people dead and 6 wounded (8/30-pastors)
- Keep **Franci and her son Declan** in prayers of comfort and peace, after the passing of Franci's mom from ALS (8/29- L. Sommers)
- Pray that God continues to hold **Susan** tightly as she continues in an experimental cancer treatment. Pray also that Susan feels the love and prayers from her friends and family (8/29-C. Carty)
- Pray for **Krystle and her daughter Penny** who are starting out on a new life (8/29-L. Sommers)
- Continue in prayers for **Nancy** as her cancer treatments continue (8/28-C. Carty)
- Pray for **Patrick**- God knows the needs (8/28-pastors)
- Continue to keep **Al and Ginny Ritchie** in your prayers (8/26-pastors)
- Please pray for the **families of the 4 victims killed** in the mass shooting in Oklahoma City, OK on August 16th (8/17-pastors)
- Pray for the **family of Mary Stringfellow**, who passed this week and undoubtedly went on to a great reward! (8/17-pastors)

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Marvin Lindsay, Ph.D., Senior Pastor and Head of Staff - mlindsay@haddonfieldpres.org

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