



First Presbyterian Church

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023, 10:00 AM

GATHERING

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

Prelude “Prelude on EVENTIDE” -- Healey Willan Lucas Brown, organ

Opening Sentences (Psalm 115)

One: Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.

All: Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?”

One: Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases.

All: Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

One: They have mouths, but they do not speak; they have eyes, but they do not see.

All: They have ears, but they do not hear; they have noses, but they do not smell.

One: Those who make them are like them; so are all who trust in them. O Israel, trust in the Lord! The Lord is your help and shield.

Hymn #425 “Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining”

Invitation to Experience God’s Grace

One: Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ’s invitation. Let us seek God’s forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

Laying Down Our Burdens

All: God of perfect love, you continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope. We are weak, but you are strong. Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true. We are seldom right, but you are never wrong. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us, and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Declaration of Forgiveness

One: Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is good news!

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

* **We Celebrate God's Forgiveness** Hymn #579 "Gloria Patri"

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.**

Whitechapel Bells

"Abide with Me" -arr. Monk/Stephenson

Time with the Children

Celebrating the Life of the Church

Stewardship Testimony

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination:

All: **Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Exodus 32:1-14

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"All that glitters is not gold"

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.

Prayers of the People and 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.

GIVE THANKS

Practicing Abundant Generosity <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri11244/give/now>



Offertory: "Hear My Prayer, O Lord" by Jeremy L. Strong, Chancel Choir

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

* Prayer of Dedication

LEAVE TO SERVE

Hymn #391 "Take My Life"

Charge and Benediction

Choral Amen, Chancel Choir

Sending Music "Old Hundredth" by Calvin Hampton
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 loving memory of Elsie L. Sellon by John and Virginia Dowd and in memory of Kenneth and Miriam Hollister by their daughter, Carol H. Carty.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Parents, please register your preK-5th graders for Children's Church using the QR Code. PreK-Kindergarten must be signed out from the Sunday School room. First-fifth graders will reunite with their families in the Bean Parlor after worship.



WORSHIP NOTES

Chancel Choir Anthem "Hear My Prayer, O Lord" -- Jeremy L. Strong

Hear my prayer, O Lord.
Give ear to my supplication.
In your faithfulness answer me,
In your righteousness answer me.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
For I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way to go, for to you I lift up my soul,
And I have put my trust in you.
Amen.

NEWS AND EVENTS

HOSPITALITY: Calling all who anticipate and appreciate after-service social time! The Hospitality Committee is soliciting volunteers to provide snacks and to host the hospitality table on Sunday mornings. As we continue to offer this ministry of camaraderie and connection in our beautiful parlor, we will have a sign-up sheet on which folks can volunteer for any Sunday of their choice. Please consider this easy and fun way to connect with old and new friends. If you would like to help us develop additional ways to serve, we would also be happy to welcome you as a member of the Hospitality Committee. Please contact Joan Fiorella at jmfiorella@gmail.com or 856 889-9185 for more information.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY: Need a ride to and from worship?

We have a **new procedure** to ask for a ride, beginning in November. To request transportation to worship, call the church at 856-429-1960. When you hear the auto attendant message, press 103 and **you will go directly to the deacon voice mailbox**. Leave a message and a deacon will call you back regarding your request.

Transportation requests must be received no later than the Tuesday prior to the Sunday when the ride is needed. Make sure to leave your phone number and a convenient time to call. Please take note: if you call later than Tuesday at 4 p.m., there may not be a deacon or church member available to drive you. This procedure will efficiently simplify the needs of our members. We look forward to

seeing you in worship! Questions? Call the church office, or Joan Fiorella at 856 889-9185.

PORCH BIBLE STUDY: will meet on Zoom on Tuesday, November 7, at 7 p.m. Paul Urian will send the Zoom link. We will be doing a Pastor Max Lucado study on Colossians & Philemon. These studies are about applying the Bible to daily life and all levels of Bible readers/explorers are welcome. We will also have prayer time.

In November, our Porcher lunch will be Tuesday, November 14, at noon. Location to be determined. If you are not on the Porcher email list, and would like to attend, please contact Jill Mascena or Deb Nussbaum at church or email Deb at debranussbaum1987@gmail.com. Our Porchers are always happy to take your prayer requests.

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: at www.haddonfieldpres.org/presbyterian-women.

Registration is open for the women of the Presbytery of South Jersey FALL GATHERING – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST ON ZOOM 9:45 – NOON. You can register for the zoom using the link found in the weekly email or on the website.

SAVE THE DATE: The Advent Festival will be Sunday, December 3rd from 11am - 1pm: We are changing things up and having the festival after church, but the format will be the same...soup, sandwiches, desserts and crafts. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Cheryl Tarditi: cheryltarditi@gmail.com.

BIBLE BUDDIES: What's Bible Buddies? Bible Buddies is a group for families with young children (Infants-5th Grade) that periodically meets for events during the year. Playground After Church: From September-November and March-June, our group will meet on the playground after church from 11am-11:30am each week! Join us after church or if you just need to get out of the house on a Sunday.

JUSTICE AND ADVOCACY:

- The **Voter Registration Deadline** for the November General Election is **October 17th, 2023**. If you are not registered or need to update your voter registration information, be sure to

do so before the deadline. **Be informed, vote informed!** [Visit VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) before you vote to learn what's on your ballot and make a voting plan. Read candidate questionnaire responses, watch recorded debates, find your polling place, review the deadlines, get answers to frequently asked questions, and more!

- **Important Date Change:** The GreenFaith in-person meeting will now be on Sunday Oct. 22nd (not 15th) at 3:30pm in The Prince of Peace Church on Rte. 70, Marlton. This will be a follow-up to the presentation by Maya van Rossum, author of The Green Amendment (not to be confused with the Green New Deal.) Learn more at NJGreenAmendment.org.

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.

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CLASS - *Our 34th Year Learning about Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church through an in-depth study of Church history, theology, art, music – and (sometimes!) pilgrimage travel.* Topic for Fall 2023: **Jesus and His Followers**. All are invited to join Church historian David Stedman after worship!

October 15: Mary Magdalene: Apostle to the Apostles! Part 1 “I have seen the Lord!” Seeing is believing. St. Mary Magdalene, also called Mary of Magdala, (feast day July 22), is one of Jesus’ most celebrated disciples – famous, according to Mark 16:9-10 and John 20:14-17, for being the first person to see the resurrected Christ, and then rushing to the Apostles to witness to His Resurrection. (She was also confused and conflated with other individuals in the Gospels.) Her witness and ministry as Apostola ad Apostolos has led many in the Roman Catholic Church to believe that women should be able to serve as priests. Illustrated lecture.

MISSION PARTNERS: The [Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council](http://InterfaithHomelessOutreachCouncil.org) is holding a dinner on **Saturday, October 21, 2023** from 6:00-9:00pm at the Catholic Church of St. Mary in Cherry Hill. A buffet dinner will be preceded by a social hour with appetizers. They will also have entertainment, a 50/50 and door prizes. Tickets are \$35. The dinner will include information about their plans to purchase a home for use as transitional housing.

Please contact our Council of Churches social worker Ed Hess (Wednesday and Friday mornings in the main office) for more information or if you would like to purchase tickets.

MISSION GRATITUDE: \$10,579 and 2,239. What do these numbers mean? They reflect the Thanksgiving generosity of this congregation over more than 20 years, expressed in cash and frozen turkeys! Once again, on **November 19th beginning at 9:00 am until noon**, we will be in the parking lot, whatever the weather, collecting frozen turkeys and cash donations to aid Your Food Shelf (a Presbyterian based and funded food pantry). Please remember to drive carefully when entering the parking lot.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 10/08/23: 170 in person and 30 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:	\$ 447,283.00	\$ 570,270.00
Loose Offering:	\$ 8,057.00	\$ 12,000.00
Per Capita:	\$ 9,124.00	\$ 16,000.00

As part of the Peace & Global Witness special offering collected this month, individual congregations designate 25% of the offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Our church's 25% of the offering is designated for a longtime Mission partner, the REHAB Project in Pakistan. Led by Shakila Rani, who visited our church in pre-Covid years, the center offers counseling, job training, basic education and shelter to abused women and others in need. For online giving, select "Peacemaking."

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 a just and peaceful resolution to the **Israeli-Palestinian** conflict.
- Please pray for **Linda's brother Roy** as he continues chemotherapy treatments for cancer **(10/10-L. O'Neill)**
- 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 **(10/10-T. Adkins)**
- Please pray for **Jeff** who is living with cancer, and pray also for his wife **Wanda (10/9-Seddon family)**
- Please pray for **Tai-Nisha's freedom and her children's safety (10/6-G. Ladies)**
- Please pray for **Michele's family, all the ladies at the Camden County Jail**, and pray for **Michele's enemies** that they will find their way **(10/6-G. Ladies)**
- Pray for **Morgan and her two daughters, Willow and Ivy**, that they are protected and safe. Pray also for her sister **Ellen** that she would be set free from addiction **(10/6-G. Ladies)**

- Pray that **Carlie** will be released from jail, and that she and her fiancé John have a peaceful rest of their lives together. Pray also for **John's health (10/6-G. Ladies)**.
- Please pray that **Summer** will be released to her children: Lucas, Jonah, Genesis and Jordan **(10/6-G. Ladies)**.
- Pray for **Enza** to be back with her daughter Adline **(10/6-G. Ladies)**.
- Pray for **Tamiyah** that she will be reunited with her children and overcome the current situation. Give her strength, guidance and healing **(10/6-G. Ladies)**
- Please pray for physical and mental healing for **Raj (10/4-R. Prasad)**
- Continue in prayer for **Isabel Pross** as she continues cancer treatment **(10/4-pastors)**
- Pray for the **family and friends of Asher Barkan**, who passed suddenly. He is missed **(10/4-N. Passante)**
- Please keep **Connie Reeves** and her family in your prayers as they grieve the sudden death of John, son, father, and brother **(10/2-C. Carty)**
- Pray for **Ginny and the entire Ritchie family** on the death of Al **(10/1-pastors)**
- Please ask the Lord to give **Susan** a sense of peace and tranquility as she experiences the coming days **(10/1-C. Carty)**
- Pray for **the family of Luke Watson** who passed suddenly. Luke was a freshman at Rowan and a 2023 graduate from Haddon Township **(9/28-T. Adkins)**
- Keep **Nancy** in your prayers as she continues cancer treatments **(9/27-C. Carty)**
- Please pray for **Jean Yount**, her medical team, and her family **(9/27-C. Yount)**
- Pray for **Carol DelGiarno** who underwent surgery **(9/20-L. Willison)**

To Pledge Online:



CHURCH STAFF

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

The Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante, Associate Pastor – npassante@haddonfieldpres.org

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STEPHEN
MINISTRY