



First Presbyterian Church

CHRIST'S JOY, JUSTICE AND COMPASSION
IN ALL, THROUGH ALL, AND FOR ALL

Sixth Sunday of Eastertide
May 5, 2024; 10:00 AM

GATHERING

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

Prelude- Communion, Op. 8 - Louis Vierne ~ Lucas Brown, Organ

Opening Sentences

One: We come to join with all the earth in praise:

All: to sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things, who has shown us steadfast love and faithfulness.

One: We praise the Lord with joyful noises joining the symphony of the earth:

All: the roar of the ocean, the call of the birds, the wind across the hills, people in every corner of the globe.

One: On this sabbath day of rest and gladness, we greet you with joy, our living God!

***Hymn** #438 PH "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

*Invitation to Experience God's Grace

One: There is nothing that can separate us from God's love. Therefore, let's confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and help us transform our lives.

*Laying Down Our Burdens

All: Tender God, forgive us for our half-hearted faith that loves only when it is easy, and reaches out only to those who are like us, that ignores your less convenient commandments and fails to bear fruit anyone would rejoice in. How can a faith like that conquer the world? Nourish us again, to blossom with whole-hearted faith that abides in your love and shines forth with joy. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*Silent Prayer

Declaration of Forgiveness

One: Hear the Good News! The only one who could judge us calls us friends.

All: Jesus chose us over his own life, so let us choose Jesus in the life we have now.

One: By the power of the Spirit, our sins are washed away, and we are made new.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

*We Celebrate God's Forgiveness

Glory to God

Lucas Brown

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the High - est , and peace to God's peo - ple on Earth." The second staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the High - est , and peace to God's peo - ple on Earth!"

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

The Baptism of Patrick David England and the Children's Message

Celebrating the Life of the Church



Practicing Abundant Generosity

<https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri11244/give/now>

† Offertory: Chapel, Thomas Sherrerd Memorial, and Chancel Choirs: "If Ye Love Me" -Philip Wilby

* Doxology Hymn #592 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

* Prayer of Dedication

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Holy Spirit, help us to hear familiar words with fresh ears, and to take your Holy Word to us seriously, as guide and pattern for our lives. Amen.

Scripture Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ[a] has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4 for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5 Who is it who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

One: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon ~

“A Time to Sew”

Rev. Marvin Lindsay

GIVE THANKS

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Children: *Why do we give thanks and praise before this table?*

Congregation: We give thanks for God's work of creation and salvation.

Minister: It is our greatest joy, creator God, to give you thanks in every time and place. You made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them— sun, moon, and stars, mountains, rivers, and trees, animals and people. You even made us in your own image to love and serve you, and you show us your mercy every day. All glory and blessing are yours, Saving God, for in your mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ. Born a child like us, he grew up to be your servant. Jesus taught your truth. He welcomed, healed, forgave, and loved people. In the end, he suffered and died to save us from our sin. And God raised him up, to give us a new life. We praise you that before he died, our Savior gave us this holy meal to eat together until he comes again.

Children: *Why do we eat bread at this table?*

Minister: On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Children: *Why do we drink from the cup at this table?*

Minister: The same night, Jesus took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Children: *What do we remember at this table?*

Minister: We remember God's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us. And remembering, we offer ourselves and our gifts for the world. According to our Lord's commandment:

Congregation: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Children: *What do we ask at this table?*

Minister: Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine, that in eating and drinking together we may be made one with Christ and with one another. At this table we ask for unity in Christ our Lord, and we ask for strength to serve the world in his name until the day you make all things new.

Congregation: Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Breaking of Bread
Communion of the People
Prayer After Communion

LEAVE TO SERVE

* † Hymn #379 GtG "We Shall Overcome" (insert)

Charge and Benediction ~ Choral Amen, Chancel Choir

Sending Music ~ Fanfare - William Mathias ~ 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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WORSHIP NOTES

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.

† **Matthew 25 Church Initiative.** The Session recognizes that throughout U.S. history African American composers have not been compensated equitably for the music they have created. To remedy this in "our little way," we invite the congregation to make a donation whenever we sing an African American Spiritual, whether it's the choir anthem or a hymn. This donation will go directly to support The Essence of Harmony Choral Society. Formed in 2018 by Cherisse Bonfont, Essence of Harmony was born from a need she saw to create the presence of space for and a medium through which singers of all skill levels can share their musical gifts. EHCS focuses on celebrating the works of both classical and under-recognized African-American composers. *Essence of Harmony will appear in concert at First Presbyterian Saturday, June 8 at 4 PM!*



If you would like to place a **live flower arrangement in the sanctuary**, please contact Diane Thorne at dthorne31@comcast.net or 609-707-8122.

NURSERY care is available during worship (9:30 - 11:15) for those with young children. The nursery is located in the Preschool (level 1R) in the Red Balloon Room near the Preschool office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Parents, please use the code to register your preK-5th graders for Children's Church. PreK-Kindergarten must be signed out from the Sunday School room. 1st-5th graders will meet their families in the Parlor after worship.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Pastor Nikki's Bible study on the Letter to the Romans meets every Thursday at 6:30 on Zoom. All are welcome to attend. See website for more information.

Prayer Group meets the second Sunday of every month in the Hospitality Center. Contact Maggie Sell or Pastor Nikki for more information.

We welcome to worship Michael England, a member of the 3rd grade communion class who is taking his first communion! We are also welcoming his brother Patrick who is being baptized today! Our prayers are full of thanksgiving and joy for parents Dana and Kevin, and their whole family. Also participating in Holy Communion after completing the Communion class in March are Charles Grabowski and Colin Scott.

Volunteers Needed for Prison Ministry: Those who participate in our ministry with the women of the Camden County Jail will tell you that the ministry is very rewarding and sorely needed. The time investment is minimal once you're approved. If you are interested in volunteering or finding out more information, please email Judy Blank (jmblank451@verizon.net).

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY: Need a ride to and from worship? 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 4:00 PM, there may not be a deacon or church member available to drive you. We look forward to seeing you in worship! Questions? Call the church office, or Joan Fiorella at 856-889-9185.

NEW SAFETY PROTOCOL: At the recommendation of the Haddonfield Police Department, beginning today, the playground entrance door and the office entrance door will be locked between 10:20 AM and 10:50 AM. If you need to leave the building during worship, please re-enter the building using the ADA-accessible ramp door that faces the Masonic Temple, or the front door of the church. This schedule may be adjusted later in May as we relocate to the Fellowship Hall for summer worship. Thank you for your cooperation.



Are you ready to take the next step and become a member of First Presbyterian Church? Would you like to learn more about who we are and what we're about? Then join our upcoming **New Member Class**. For four Wednesdays at 7:00 PM between May 15 and June 5, we'll meet online to talk about God's call, what is unique about Presbyterian beliefs and practices, and where you fit in here. To register, use the QR code or go to: <https://bit.ly/3PXwESO>



Register your children today for VBS! Volunteer today for VBS! At "Camp Firelight" our campers will explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament "campers" trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. Use the QR code to the left or go to: <https://bit.ly/3VOSIYP>.

Pinwheel Garden: Presbyterian Women will be dismantling our beautiful Pinwheel Garden on May 6. Children are invited to take a pinwheel home after worship. PW would appreciate a \$1.00 donation for each pinwheel. Collection jars are in the Bean Parlor. We hope that the appearance of the pinwheels has reminded everyone that not all children live in safe environments and have prayed for agencies like Prevent Child Abuse, NJ that seek to secure those spaces for NJ children at risk.

Christian Heritage Class May 5. Communion Sunday. Eschatological Expectations: The Church and the Last Judgment. When asked by a student what he would do were he to learn the world was going to end the next day, the great Reformer and Bible scholar Martin Luther is said to have replied with a smile: "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." The early Christians, finding Christ's Second Coming delayed as the first century A.D. transitioned to the 2nd, understood that Christ's "imminent" return did not necessarily imply its "immediacy." Throughout the centuries people have tried to predict the actual day of the Second Advent, from various motives. Often the results are good: more Christians pay attention and go to church. Passages in the New Testament steer attention to the dawn of a new era – fulfilled with Jesus' Second Coming (and the Judgment). These are some key passages in Jesus' teaching.

We Can Make a Difference! It's All About Sustainability! Go beyond REDUCE>REUSE>RECYCLE. Helpful info is in the parlor.

Save the date: The Ice Cream Social is Friday May 10th 6:30-8:30. Come to Fellowship Hall for Ice Cream Sundaes and all the trimmings! Save your applause for the best Music in the Land by Peter Leibensperger with the 1st Presbyterian Choir and Guests. Tickets will be available for purchase starting this Sunday after worship in the parlor. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

The Porch Bible Study will start a series about hope at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 28th via Zoom. If you are not on the Porcher email list and would like to join our group of study, discussion and prayer, please see Jill Mascena or Deb Nussbaum at church, or email Deb at debranussbaum1987@gmail.com. All are welcome. No preparation required before our meetings.

The Social Connection, our fun group for special needs adults, meets Monday, May 20, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the church Hospitality Room. It's a great evening of bingo, singing, balloon volleyball, games and snacks. All are welcome. Thank you to everyone who has donated Bingo prizes. For more information see Joyce Stout, Deb Nussbaum or Peg Manochi at church or email Joyce at billandjoyce1@aol.com.

The Staff would like to **THANK** all the members who have volunteered to work the front office. Your help is very much appreciated!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Pledge Giving: | 223,473 | Budget: | 460,000 |
| Non-pledge giving: | 33,626 | Budget: | 160,000 |
| Per Capita: | 5,972 | Budget: | 11,000 |
| Loose: | 5,898 | Budget: | 11,000 |

Note: The Session adopted a 2024 budget with a projected shortfall of approximately \$140,000. The shortfall will be covered by remaining Covid relief funds, small grants, and withdrawals from investment reserves.

Prayer List (5/5/24)

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 **Gaza** and the **people of Israel and Palestine** as war continues.
- Pray for the **City of Philadelphia and the gun violence** that is destroying the lives of young men and women and entire families.
- Pray for **Melissa** and her entire family. God knows the needs **(5/2-pastors)**
- Pray that all will go well for **Dan**, who is having a health procedure next month **(4/19-J. Metz)**
- Continue in prayer for **Scott** on the challenging road to sobriety **(4/19-P. Urian)**
- Please pray for **Eleanor** who was recently diagnosed with cancer **(4/15-D. Stedman)**
- Continue in prayer for **Jessica Devietro** who is living with cancer **(4/15-L. Sommers)**
- Pray for the family and friends of **Chris Welch** who died following a serious automobile accident **(4/14-D. Haynor)**.
- Pray for **Kathy Clifford**, a Presby Preschool teacher, who underwent surgery last week **(4/9 - pastors)**.
- Continue in prayer for our **Stephen Ministers and their Care Receivers (4/9-pastors)**
- Continue in prayer for **Branson** as he studies abroad **(4/6-pastors)**
- Please keep **Patrick and his family** in your prayers **(4/5- pastors)**
- Please be in prayer for **Connie** who has been in the hospital since January. Pray for her recovery and healing **(4/4-D. Stedman)**

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Marvin Lindsay, Ph.D., Senior Pastor - mlindsay@haddonfieldpres.org
The Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante, Associate Pastor - npassante@haddonfieldpres.org
Peter Leibensperger, Minister of Music - pleibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org
Lucas Brown, Principal Organist - lbrown@haddonfieldpres.org
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Eric Walker, Youth Director - ewalker@haddonfieldpres.org
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Kyrylo Chastukhin, Sunday Caretaker

 **First Presbyterian Church**
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STEPHEN
MINISTRY