



First Presbyterian Church

Sixth Sunday of Eastertide

May 14, 2023 at 10:00

THE CHURCH GATHERS

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

Prelude

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

Alleluia Bells

Opening Sentences

Based on Matthew 23:37

One: As a hen gathers her brood under her wings, God desires to gather us together.

All: **Gather us, O God. We are here to worship and sing your praise!**

* **Hymn #477**

“Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

* **Call to Confession**

One: We are a people born of water and the Spirit. We have made promises to be Christ’s faithful disciples, and to show his love to the end of our lives. Although we fail to keep those promises, God’s faithfulness endures forever. Confident of God’s grace, let us confess our sin and the sin of this world.

* **Prayer of Confession**

All: **Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid.**

In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ.

* **Silent Prayer**

* **Declaration of Forgiveness**

One: Christ transforms, redeems, and renews. Through Christ’s death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to sing God’s glory and testify to God’s grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: **Alleluia! Amen.**

* Hymn of Response

Glory to God

Lucas Brown

Glo-ry to God in the High - est , and peace to his peo-ple on Earth.

Glo-ry to God in the High - est , and peace to his 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.

One: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Anthem "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" – arr. Cynthia Dobrinski Moore Bells

Children's Message

Celebrating the Life of the Congregation

(Please sign and pass the Friendship Registers and note those sitting around you)

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination

All: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading:

Acts 17:16-34

Common English Bible

¹⁶ While Paul waited for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to find that the city was flooded with idols. ¹⁷ He began to interact with the Jews and Gentile God-worshippers in the synagogue. He also addressed whoever happened to be in the marketplace each day. ¹⁸ Certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers engaged him in discussion too. Some said, "What an amateur! What's he trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods." (They said this because he was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹ They took him into custody and brought him to the council on Mars Hill. "What is this new teaching? Can we learn what you are talking about? ²⁰ You've told us some strange things and we want to know what they mean." (²¹ They said this because all Athenians as well as the foreigners who live in Athens used to spend their time doing nothing but talking about or listening to the newest thing.)

²² Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. ²³ As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown God.' What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. ²⁴ God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in

temples made with human hands. ²⁵ Nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed something, since he is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. ²⁶ From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn't far away from any of us. ²⁸ In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore, as God's offspring, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought. ³⁰ God overlooks ignorance of these things in times past, but now directs everyone everywhere to change their hearts and lives. ³¹ This is because God has set a day when he intends to judge the world justly by a man he has appointed. God has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

³² When they heard about the resurrection from the dead, some began to ridicule Paul. However, others said, "We'll hear from you about this again." ³³ At that, Paul left the council. ³⁴ Some people joined him and came to believe, including Dionysius, a member of the council on Mars Hill, a woman named Damaris, and several others.

One: Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Believe in me."

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Known Unknowns"

Rev. Marvin Lindsay

Affirmation of Faith

1 Cor. 15:1-6; Mark 16:1-9; Matt. 16:16; Rev. 22:13; John 20:28

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:

that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,

that he was buried,

that he was raised on the third day,

and that he appeared

first to the women,

then to Peter,

and to the Twelve,

and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer, p. 16, *The Presbyterian Hymnal*

Offering Our Lives to God

Offertory

"O Love" – Elaine Hagenberg

Chancel Choir

* Doxology. #592 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn #118

“The Day of Resurrection!”

LEAVE TO SERVE

* Charge and Benediction

Choral Amen

Sending Music

Lancashire — Michael Helman

Doris Dabrowski, 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.

* Please stand in body or spirit

*Portions of today's order of worship are written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution.
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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.

THE NURSERY is in the Red Balloon Room (#103) on the first floor of the Preschool. The nursery is open to infants–3-year-olds. We look forward to welcoming you!

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM – “O Love” by Elaine Hagenberg

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy, that seeks me through the pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

A WARM WELCOME to Doris Dabrowski, our guest organist. Many thanks for graciously sharing your gifts with us!

THANK YOU to our fun-loving and also hard working Alleluia Bell members for learning about God and sharing their joys and gifts with us throughout the year: Nicholas Adkins, Alexis Chamberlin, Beatrice Dunn, Matty Hall, Ariella Liggera, Owen McGovern, Ellie Murphy, Kimberly Hall (Choir Parent).

THANK YOU to our dedicated and wonderful Moore Bell ringers for bringing us beautiful music throughout the 2022/23 season: Corinne Brandt, Becky Bryan, Kristin Carberry, Betsy Fiorella, Pat MacCluen, Tanya McKenzie, Liz Olson, Evelyn Santiago, Dale Schulz, Julie Shannon, Anne Vial, Majorie Welch.

GIVE FROM YOUR PHONE – Use this QR code to go to the online giving page on your phone. You can still use this link: <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbytery11244/give/now>. Cash and checks are also gladly accepted. Include your name so your giving can be recorded.



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CLASS – This morning is the last class of season. The topic is Pentecost, celebrated this year on May 28. “Pentecost” is the Greek name for the Feast of Weeks, a prominent Levitical feast in the calendar of ancient Israel celebrating both the giving of the Law on Sinai and the beginning the wheat harvest. This feast is still celebrated in Judaism as Shavuot. According to Jewish tradition, Pentecost commemorates God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai fifty days after the Exodus. The Talmud derives this from a calculation based on Biblical texts. For Christians Pentecost is the “birthday of the Church.” The “house” mentioned in Acts 2:1-4 must have been the Temple (the “house of God”) for there is no place in crowded Jerusalem except the Temple where thousands could hear Peter—in the court of Gentiles. Everyone was at the Temple as it was Shavuot—and that’s why so many Jews of the Diaspora were in Jerusalem. Come to the Hospitality Center on the lower level after worship to hear David Stedman’s presentation.

STAFF RETREAT ON TUESDAY – On Tuesday, May 16, your First Presbyterian staff will head off-site for an afternoon of planning. Please note that the offices will be closed starting at 12:30. Please let Anne Vial or Travis Bogetti know if you will need access to the building. (Preschool will still be in session.)

COOKING DAYS FOR JOSEPH’S HOUSE – We will cook on **Tuesday, May 16, 1-3 p.m.** – our make-up date for April. And we will cook on **Tuesday, May 30 from 1-3** – our regularly scheduled time. All choppers, stirrers, and cooks welcome!

ASCENSION WORSHIP SERVICE – **Thursday, May 18, 12:00 p.m.** in the Chapel. After 40 days of appearing to and instructing the disciples, the Resurrected Jesus rose into heaven, but not before promising to send his Holy Spirit. Join us for this prayerful worship service.

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 and are interested, or simply join us on Zoom!

WERE YOU THERE? If you participated in the **Walk Across the Ben Franklin Bridge** or the **rally in Mt. Laurel to Ban Assault Weapons** or the **Embracing Race meeting**, the Justice and Advocacy Committee would love to hear your feedback on what the experience meant to you and anything new you may have learned or wish to share. Please email JAC chairperson, Rita Brown, at rbrown6115@verizon.net with your thoughts.

ALSO – **GreenFaith’s Southern New Jersey Circle** will meet on **Sunday, May 21st at 3:30pm** in Prince of Peace Church, 61 E. Rt 70 Marlton, NJ. In addition to the regular agenda, members of the plastics working group will share their presentation on plastic pollution and solutions. Go to greenfaith.org for more information.

AND – Explore the Newly Updated Social Justice page on the church website: <http://www.haddonfieldpres.org/social-justice>. The Justice and Advocacy Committee thanks Anne Vial for a tremendous job making it more user friendly. It is now much easier to access the various resources especially those offered by PC(USA).

SUNDAY SCHOOL FAREWELL – Sunday, May 21 is the last day of Sunday School and Teacher Appreciation Day. Sunday, May 28 is Pentecost (wear red!) and worship moves to Fellowship Hall.

PORCH BIBLE STUDY – The Porchers will study Daniel and Esther beginning **Tuesday, May 30**, on Zoom at 7 p.m. We will follow a Pastor Max Lucado study guide. Our group also prays for many joys and concerns and is happy to hear prayer needs. All are welcome.

THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL IS BACK! Friday, June 2, 6 – 8 p.m. Sweet strawberry short cakes will be smothered with berries and “sugared” with Musical Notes from Peter and our adult choir for your entertainment.

OPEN HOUSE VOLUNTEERS – Please sign up to greet visitors to the church on the morning of **Saturday, June 3 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.** Downtown will be hopping, and it would be wonderful to literally have our doors open. Please sign up using the usher and event scheduler: <https://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/haddonfieldpres>. (While you are there, pick a day to usher!)

YOUTH SERVICE NIGHT ON SUNDAY, JUNE 4 – The next monthly service night for Middle School and High School youth will be Sunday, June 4. Middle schoolers will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and high schoolers will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Details will follow on service projects for the evening.

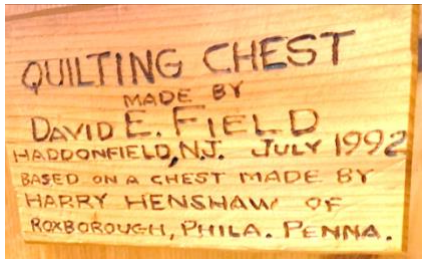
PW SPRING GATHERING – On June 8, all women in the presbytery are invited to a joint Spring Gathering hosted at First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown. We hope you can join us – our PW will be attending. **Details:** The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey and the PW Coordinating Team of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown invite all women to a **Joint Spring Gathering on Thursday, June 8th at 6:00 pm** at First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown (101 Bridgeboro Road, Moorestown, Miller Commons). Be inspired by a panel presentation, “What is a Christian Woman to Do?” featuring Rev. Dr. Debby Brincivalli, Dr. Leslie Spencer, and Jennifer Allen. Learn about the PWPFSNJ, its purpose and missions. For more information and registration: <https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1720338>.

WORKSHOP ON URBANPROMISE WELLNESS CENTER IN JUNE – Please join us on **Sunday, June 11**, immediately following worship, for an interactive hour-long workshop with Siomara Wedderburn, vice president, programs, and past director of Wellness at UrbanPromise. The Wellness Center at UrbanPromise receives financial support from this congregation by way of an annual donation from the Mission Committee. Ms. Wedderburn will talk about how UrbanPromise has adapted wellness and experiential learning as key strategic initiatives and integrated these across all programs at the school. Join us for conversation and fellowship as we learn more about this wonderful program.

VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN! This year’s VBS: Operation Restoration! invites kids to be Menders in God’s world. As they make connections between Bible stories and mending actions, they’ll discover simple ways to live out faith in daily life by exploring the daily themes of Feed, Heal, Forgive, Pray, and Rest. Dates are **July 24-28, 2023**. The cost of the camp is \$25 per Mender, payable via Check (First Presbyterian of Haddonfield memo line: VBS), Venmo (@FPCHaddonfield), or through Realm (QR code links directly to Realm payment). **Register Menders** at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19Sy90YduYRl4CUBhARYBaO1dh-DDxjibM-mhEPWi6Do/edit?usp=drive_web or on the church website. We look forward to seeing you in July!



AND as always, we look forward to including youth shepherds and adult volunteers in the adventure! Shepherds and volunteers register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13Rj1ERU30w8WHCCeUaoWuZPqxoTbv7HqA5fMcTZB0lk/edit?usp=drive_web.



A FELLOWSHIP OF SEWERS – The Monday Quilters group was formed 31 years ago by Barbara Field and Sue Smith. Barbara’s husband, David, built the beautiful wood storage bench that is in the Hospitality Room for Quilters to keep their poles, frames, and projects in. Quilters meet every Monday morning at 9:45 in the Hospitality Room. If you would like to learn to make a colorful quilt, table runner, or wall hanging, come join us!

DRESSES FOR KENYA – This project continues until there are enough! Kits available in the Parlor hallway.

ST. WILFRID NEEDS – The Lord has been providing us with a plentiful supply of donated food, so we ask that you consider donating diapers of any size, baby wipes, bars of soap, bottles of body wash and shampoo, and new socks (black or white) of any size. You can leave your donations in the alcove closest to the Playground doors. The photo below of some of the faithful St. Wilfrid’s crew shows the food warehouse at the South Jersey Foodbank, one of our key suppliers.

2023 CHURCH OFFERING UPDATE – Please note that target numbers on the right represent a 6-month goal, not the full year’s budget.

| | <u>Received to date</u> | <u>Six-month budget goal</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Envelope Giving: | \$ 239,904.00 | \$ 285,135.00 |
| Loose Offering: | \$ 5,038.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Per Capita: | \$ 8,518.00 | \$ 8,000.00 |

ATTENDANCE 5/7/23: 172 in person, unable to stream online.

SCRIPTURE FOR SUNDAY, MAY 21: *Acts 1:10-14*

While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Please pray for the following individuals and situations throughout the week. If you would like to add a personal prayer request, please contact one of the pastors or Anne Vial. In making requests on behalf of others, please obtain the permission of the person needing prayer. The requestor’s name will be printed as the originator of the request. Requests will be revisited every 30 days.

- Pray for the **people, government, and country of Ukraine as war continues.**
- Pray for **Karla** as she mourns her mother (**5/11-T. Adkins**)
- Continue to pray for Cole as he continues cancer treatment (**5/10-N. Adkins**)
- Please pray for a treasured co-worker, **Leah M.**, who is overcoming a recent sudden hospitalization. Pray that she experiences healing and comfort, and continued recovery. (**5/10-K. Hyslop**)

- Pray for all the **Cancer Warriors' kids and moms** who are fighting and in treatment (5/10-N. Adkins)
- Prayers of thanksgiving and joy for the 100th birthday of **Alice Vial** (5/10-A. Vial)
- Pray for **Trish's friend Robin** as she celebrates what would have been her daughter Campbell's 14th birthday (5/10-T. Adkins)
- Please pray for **Betsy and her entire family** on the unexpected death of her husband, David, while they were hiking the Camino de Santiago. Betsy is Carol Carty's cousin. (5/1-C. Carty)
- Pray for **Helen Brotzman**, who is now on hospice care (4/26-pastors)
- Please pray for the **Baggs family, wife Kay and son William**, on the death of Jon (4/24-M. Dark)
- Prayers for **Tom Lutz**, a former co-worker of Dr. Lindsay in Missouri who's been battling pancreatic cancer for three years and has recently entered hospice care (4/24- M. Lindsay)
- Prayers for **Tim Ross**, a friend of ours in Columbia, Missouri diagnosed with AL (primary) amyloidosis a bone marrow disease similar to multiple myeloma (4/24 - M. Lindsay)
- Please keep **Isabel Pross** in your prayers as she undergoes cancer treatment (4/19-pastors)
- Pray for **Ha-young Shin and his co-workers** that God will grant God's will (4/19-pastors)
- Pray for **Viola**. God knows the needs! (4/18-pastors)
- Please pray for **Brian** who is suffering from ampullary cancer and for strength for his family (4/18-L. Hurd)



Church Staff

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