

First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 am MAY 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

* indicates when to rise in body or in spirit



QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

“I remember my mother’s prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.” -- Abraham Lincoln

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather together to worship

People: **our loving, nurturing God,**

Leader: who, like a good mother, knows us intimately,

People: **loves us unconditionally,**

Leader: teaches us the way we should go,

People: **and comforts us in times of need.**

Leader: Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!

*** HYMN STF 2050 “Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”**

TUNE: MARYTON

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God our Creator, the One who will not let us go, your care sustains us in each moment, and your compassion guides us in each situation.

When we fall, you lift us, when we fail, you restore us,

When we are wounded, you nurse us, when we grieve, you weep with us.

We, your beloved children, praise you. But we have failed to love as you do,

we have abused our bodies and those of others,

we have filled our minds with selfish dreams, and violent plans,

we have made our hearts cold and empty of compassion,

we have forgotten our spirits, and distorted your image within us.

While none of us have had a perfect mother, we recognize you can be the loving force for life and hope and grace in our lives. As a loving mother disciplines her children, we ask you to discipline us; As a caring mother forgives each child who hurt her, we ask you to forgive us; As a peacemaking mother calls her children to be reconciled with their siblings, we ask you to lead us to reconciliation with one another.

(A Time of Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* SUNG RESPONSE OF JOY *“Lord of All Hopefulness”* STF 2197 vs. 1

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,

whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:

Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LISTENING FOR THE WORD BY THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT
--

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Help us to listen, O God, beyond the words to the meaning you would bring to us this day. Open our hearts and minds and enter in.

RESPONSIVE READING The Gospel of John 15:9-17

Leader: Jesus said: “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

People: **“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.**

Leader: You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

People: **You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”**

CHILDRENS' CHIME CHOIR *"Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee"*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING I John 5:1-5 (The Message version)

Every person who believes that Jesus is, in fact, the Messiah, is God-born. If we love the One who creates the child, we’ll surely love the child who was conceived. The reality test on whether or not we love God’s children is this: Do we love God? Do we keep God’s commands? The proof that we love God comes when we keep God’s commandments and they are not at all troublesome.

Every God-born person conquers the world’s ways. The conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith. The person who wins out over the world’s ways is simply the one who believes Jesus is the Son of God.

MESSAGE Love is Believing and Keeping

RESPONDING TO THE WORD WITH OUR LIVES

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in truth as a living Reality,
not captured in theory or a creed, but revealed to those who love;
the truth of Jesus, the Spirit of truth, the truth of God.
Because I believe I trust, not blindly but open eyed and bold
as a child climbing into a mother's lap;
the truth of Jesus, the Spirit of truth, the truth of God.
Because I believe I serve,
not as a slave that serves a tyrant but like farmers reaping a harvest;
the truth of Jesus,
the Spirit of truth,
the truth of God.

*HYMN PH #323 *“Loving Spirit”*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Jenn Smalley

CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

* SONG OF GRATITUDE *“Be Thou My Vision”*

PH 339, vs 1

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER JOYS and CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ending with the LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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

GOING OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST

*HYMN PH #555 "Now Thank We All Our God"

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

We thank our Worship Leader Jennifer Smalley
and the Ushers/Greeters this morning.

Liturgical Resources:

PH denotes The Presbyterian Hymnal and STF denotes Sing the Faith Hymnal

Prayer Of Confession: – adapted from one written by John van de Laar on the Sacredise website.

Affirmation Of Faith: – © B D Prewer 2001, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page.

E-Giving - *It makes giving easy!*

E-Giving is a convenient way to support our ministries. Here's how:

Scan the QR Code to donate through your smart phone.
OR



Scan Me

Go to the church website, fpcnewtonnj.org and click on the **E-donate** button and sign up using your email and a password. You can make a one-time donation or sign up for automatic recurring donations.

More comfortable using a check? No problem, just drop a check in the mail.

As always, we thank you for your generosity and support!

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON
Week of May 12, 2024**

- Sun. 5/12 **Mother's Day**
9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer
No Faith Formation Classes
9:45 am Family Choir Practice
10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary
No Youth Group
- Mon. 5/13 10:00 am Wired Word
- Tue. 5/14 **4:30 pm Bread of Life Meeting (Parlor)**
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Manna House Spaghetti Dinner
7:00 pm Deacons (Parlor)
- Wed. 5/15 **Newsletter Deadline**
8:00 pm Midweek Vespers via Zoom
- Thur. 5/16 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Readers INK Book Club (Parlor)
2:00 - 4:00 pm Rummage Sale Set Up
6:00 -8:00 pm Rummage Sale Set Up
7:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (last one until Fall)
- Fri. 5/17 9:00 - 4:00 pm Rummage Sale Set Up
1:00 - 3:00 pm Hearts and Hands Craft Group (Parlor)
6:00 - 8:00 pm Rummage Sale Set Up
- Sat. 5/18 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Rummage Sale
- Sun. 5/19 **Pentecost**
9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer
9:00 am Faith Formation Classes (last one until Fall)
9:00 am Worship in the Chapel (last one until Fall)
9:30 am Family Choir Practice
10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary
No Youth Group

Our Staff

Interim Pastor Heather Morrison-Yaden
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Associate for Family Nurture Colleen Duffy
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Office Administrator Janet Lasko
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Treasurer Jane MacDonald
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Organist Ann Socha
Bell Choir Director Melinda Kline
Choir Director Cate Pasculli
Child Care Heather Woods

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Church Email Address: admin@fpcnewtonnj.org

Church Telephone # 973-383-4420

54 High Street, Newton NJ

Church Web Site Address: www.fpcnewtonnj.org facebook.com/FPCNJ

www.youtube.com (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

Our Sunday service can also be found on our YouTube channel
sometime after 3 pm.



CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, May 18th from 9-3pm in Fellowship Hall

The Rummage Sale is quickly approaching!!

DONATE – gently used clothing, housewares, shoes, pocketbooks, toys, linens and more. Call the church office to arrange a time to drop off your donation at 973-383-4420.

Proceeds benefit some of the funds needed for the 2024 Summer Mission Trip to Erie, Pa.

Thank you for your support!