

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Gathering

PRELUDE

Lori Yost, Musician

INTROIT (10:00 a.m. only) "Jesus Shall Reign" Prelude on "Duke Street"

*by John Hatton; arr. by Cynthia Dobrinski
Hand Bell Choir; Kim Lampe, Interim Director*

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Dave Sippel, Pastor of Discipleship and Missional Engagement

Expansion of Our Hearts

CALL TO WORSHIP* (responsive)

Welcome in the name of the Lord!

Amen!

We gather as a community,
One in God,
Broken in humanity,
Healed through Christ,
Sent by God

So that the world may know

In Ghana, there is a custom to offer a glass of water and ask: what is your mission?

Welcome to this place! Refresh yourselves!

And let me ask as they do in Ghana, what is your mission?

That the world may know!

*GATHERING SONG #377 (Blue hymnal) "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

Brooke Burgin, Song Leader

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE** (responsive)

Prayer of Confession

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another

Holy and merciful God,

we confess that we have been bound by narrow and self-centered agendas,
trusting in our plans more than in the beauty of your presence in one another.

We repent. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

Most holy and powerful God, we confess that we have judged our neighbor according to our own limited standards, condemning and confining them in visible and invisible ways based on religion, race, color, gender, class, and other divisive categories.

We repent. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

Most holy and mighty God, we confess the many ways human exploitation continues today, the structures of domination that still divide us. We confess that we have ignored your radical invitation to live as beloved community.

We repent. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE May the peace of Christ be with you all! **And also with you!**

(10 a.m. only) Children and youth are invited to leave for their classes.

SPECIAL MUSIC (10:00 a.m. only) "See What a Morning"

*by Keith Getty and
Stuart Townsend, Incorporating the hymn tune "Easter Hymn" arr. by Michael Ryan*

Reception of God's Word

PREPARATION FOR READING

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scriptures. **Our hearts and minds are open.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 8:26-40, NRSV

Eileen Bundz (8:30 a.m.) Reader

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

34 The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is

water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God**

MESSAGE "Unexpected Spirit"

Rev. Stacey Duensing Pearce, Pastor of Worship, Care and Strategic Leadership

Transformation of Our Lives

SONG OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE **#389** (*Blue Hymnal*) "**Spirit of the Living God**"

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please join the prayers with the following response:

God of Resurrection...

Hear our Prayer

OFFERING & OFFERTORY (*10 a.m. only*)

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son & Holy Ghost. Amen

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Compassion For the World

*SENDING SONG **#161** (*Blue Hymnal*) "**I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing**"

*BENEDICTION This time of worship has ended. **Let the service begin!**

*POSTLUDE

** Indicates to please stand, if able.*

**The call to worship is from opening worship of the Fourth Global Gathering of the Global Christian forum which met in Accra, Ghana April 16-19 with the theme from John 17:23 "so that the world may know".*

***The prayer of confession today is adapted from the "Prayer for Lament and Reconciliation" at the Fourth Global Gathering of the Global Christian Forum"*



TODAY-APRIL 28, 2024



SERMON SERIES CONTINUES: We continue to explore topics in this sermon series called "Resurrection Church". In this series, we will ask "What does the good news of Jesus'

resurrection mean for how we live as Christians in the world?" As companions on the journey, we will follow stories in scripture from the early church drawing heavily from the book of Acts and the post resurrection stories in the Gospels.

This week, we will speak to the story of Philip and the Ethiopian and how the Spirit moved in unexpected ways and places. Pastor Stacey's sermon on Acts 8:26-40 is entitled "Unexpected Spirit". Liturgy in Sunday's service will include prayers from the Fourth Global Gathering of the Global Christian Forum which Pastor Stacey just attended in Accra, Ghana. So glad you joined us today!

PLAN TO JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY FOR A SPRING YOUNG FAMILIES EVENT: May 5th after church from 11 a.m. -12 p.m. in Friendship Hall. It's a chance for the kids to create and the parents to connect. No sign up needed. Hope to see you there!!

CONSISTORY NOMINATIONS BEGIN TODAY: First Reformed Church is asking for your help nominating our next elder and deacon to serve on Consistory. Last year we started moving the process of selecting new elder(s) and deacon(s) to earlier in the year so new consistory members have a chance to collaborate with members whose terms are ending. We're asking church members to prayerfully consider submitting a nomination. Terms concluding are Elder, Judy Reichenbach & Deacon, Karen Borduin. To submit nominations please fill out the form provided at the back of the worship space and put them in the black box or hand them in to the office. **The window to submit a nomination will close on Sunday, May 19th.**

GAME NIGHT NEXT FRIDAY MAY 3RD: Love playing cards or a special game? Join us the first Friday of each month in Keator Parlor at 7:00 p.m. Christine Hudson & Sharon Hollick host this fun night. If you don't know how to play, they will teach you. Various games provided or bring your favorite. Light refreshments will be served. All ages welcome. Email Sharon to RSVP sharhollick@optimum.net No Game Nights will be held in July and August.

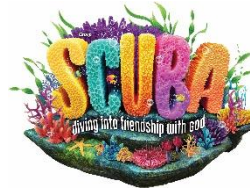
THINGS TO KNOW

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS SEARCH TEAM UPDATE: The Search Team for the FRC Director of Music and Worship Arts has been meeting since February. The team would like to broaden their perspective with the

thoughts and opinions of everyone who worships at FRC. The Search Team invites you to complete their survey on how you engage with worship and music at FRC. The survey will be open from April 22 to May 12 and can be accessed on the church website or by going to this link <https://firstreformedchurch.com/connect/music-ministry-search-survey/> Please complete the survey only one time per person. Thank you in advance for adding your feedback to the search team and for your prayers in their ongoing work!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1:

Registration for our 2024 SCUBA Vacation Bible School opens online May 1st. At SCUBA VBS, kids will dive into



friendship and be immersed in God's Word. Kids ages 5 - 6th grade are invited to join us August 5-9 from 9 AM-Noon for an unforgettable undersea adventure to experience the

ever flowing, never ending love of God. The \$35 per child registration fee includes all our program supplies, a daily snack, a t-shirt, and music download card. Space is limited and volunteers are needed.

EVENTS



FISH & CHIPS DINNER - THURSDAY, MAY 9TH FROM 5:00-7:00 P.M.: The Women's Ministry of FRC will be hosting a Fish & Chips Dinner catered by Tastefully British. The

dinner will be held on May 9th from 5:00–7:00 p.m. This year you can pick up in a Drive-Thru or gather with friends and family to eat in Friendship Hall. Either way, you must pre-order. Dinners include fish or chicken tenders, french fries, coleslaw, tartar sauce, malt vinegar, and a tasty dessert. Each meal is \$20. Order by filling out the form in the back of both worship spaces or by going on our website. **Orders will be accepted through May 6th at 3:00 p.m.**

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY DINNER FOR PASTOR STACEY: On Sunday, June 9th at 5:30 p.m. we will be celebrating Pastor Stacey's first year of being at FRC. Won't you join us? Congregational Life will be serving roast beef with all the trimmings. There is no cost for the dinner BUT you must sign up and get a ticket. There will only be 150 tickets available so don't wait. Tickets will be available Sundays- May 19th, 26th and June 2nd. We appreciate any help offered to make this a success!

SERVE/SUPPORT

PEQUANNOCK FOOD PANTRY CURRENT NEEDS: As spring approaches, our stock from the holidays has seriously diminished. In March we served 99 clients, and almost

as many in April. There are a number of things we are out of (*) and many others that need replenishing. Whatever help you can give is greatly appreciated!

*Pasta sauce, *Paper towels, *Pickles, *Sardines, *Tissues, *Jell-O / Pudding cups, *Green olives, *Pizza sauce, *Regular black tea bags, *Dish detergent, *Corned beef hash, *Sugar (1 -2 lb.), *Green olives, *Body wash, Beets, Packaged Milk (Parmalat), Canned chicken, Canned / pkg fruit (not pineapple), Coffee, Jelly, Tomato paste, Spam, Beverages, Condiments (relish, ketchup, mustard, mayo), Pancake syrup, Baked beans Chili, Shampoo and Conditioner.

SPARK KIDZ

CHILDREN AND COMMUNION CLASS REGISTRATION IS OPEN: Children in 2nd grade & up who are interested in participating in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper are invited to register for our First Communion Class. The class will be held during our regular Spark Kidz time on May 12 & 19. A First Communion Celebration will be held during the 10:00 a.m. service on June 2nd. Register on the FRC website Grow/Youth & Children

2 AND 3-YEAR OLD CLASS SINGING ON MAY 12TH:

Our 2 and 3-year old class will be singing "Jesus Loves Me" at the beginning of the 10:00 a.m. service on May 12th. The kids have been learning this song throughout the year in their class, and they will be singing in memory of Hayden Becker, a precious member of our 2- and 3- year old class of 2017. Be sure to join us for this wonderful celebration.

IGNITE & FUSE YOUTH

FUEL YOUTH GROUP: Middle school and high school youth will be meeting on Wednesday nights throughout the month of May from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. We will not be meeting on the following Wednesday nights: May 29th, June 5th, June 12th. Our summer kickoff will be held on Wednesday, June 19th. Anyone wishing information about youth group can check our website for event details or contact Dave Sippel dave@frc-pp.org

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

JOYS:

Congratulations to **Jennifer Adams**, who welcomed a son, **Tyler Michael Adams** on April 22nd. Proud big sister, Lilly. Cards to Jennifer 20 Greendale Ave., Pompton Plains 07444

Blessings to **Frank & Rose Chara** on the birth of their 3rd great grandchild, **Abigail Ivy Rogan**, born April 24th. Proud parents TJ and Angelica Rogan.

FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE:

A memorial service will be held for **Ann Marie Duane, Bethany Duane-Dacles' sister**, next Saturday, May 4 at 11:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary. The service will be followed by a repast in Friendship Hall.

Victoria Sharpe, Sandy Bernstein's sister, passed away this past week in Florida. Cards to Sandy 520 Newark Pompton Tpke., #210, Pompton Plains, 07444

CONCERNS:

Peace in our world

Prayers for **Linda Rooney**, as she recovers from recent knee replacement. Cards to 4 Virginia Ave., Pompton Plains 07444

Prayers for **Kim Pearce**, Pastor Stacey's father-in-law who is having hip surgery on April 30

Joy, Andy Ball's wife, broke her foot hiking. Prayers for healing.

Colby Douglas, had surgery last week. Continue prayers that the procedure was effective and for his recovery. Cards to 14 Second St., Pequannock 07440

Joan Muller, prayers for pain relief and mobility. Cards to 8 Atwood Ave., Pompton Plains 07444

Rosemary Maka's niece's husband John, is home after being hospitalized and is awaiting gallbladder surgery. Please also hold John's wife, Melissa in prayer for peace.

Please hold in prayer **Zach Pearce's church**, who has been in a discussion about merging with another congregation.

Friend of Pauline McKeown, undergoing chemotherapy

Jeanine Tedeschi, Rose Chara's niece, in a lot of pain. Started new chemo treatment this past week. Continue prayers for courage and strength

Prayers of for **Mary Indoe**, as she continues to heal from a recent surgery

Barbara Livingstone, prayers for 2 infusions coming up. Cards to 735 Cannella Way, Riverdale 07457. Prayers also for Barbara's daughter, **Barbara Sutton**, suffering with cellulitis at this time

LONG TERM CONCERNS:

Frank Scangarella, **Colleen Erickson** (niece of Rose & Frank Chara), **Lorraine Nichols**, **John De Falco**, **Judy Napoli**, **Kaitlyn Rubano**, **Karen Milligan**, **Heather** (Tony's daughter in law), **Michael Bozza** (friend of Gloria Krueger), **Brandi** (friend of Ann Marie Ziffer), **William (Bill) Erickson** (brother-in-law of Frank and Rose Chara), **Nancy Crefeld** (Pete's mom), **Holly Campbell** (Lori Osborne's friend), **Kathryn Dontje** (Barbara Ball's daughter), **Brenda** (Barbara Ball's daughter), **Logan Boncek** (Gloria Krueger's cousin's grandson), **Judy Lento** (Pat Lento's sister in law), **Charles Cunningham**, **Dee Patrick**, **Dolores Garritano** (Gloria Krueger's sister) **Peter Garritano & Jim Jenkins** (family of Gloria Krueger), **Jim**, (Lynn Rayner's brother), **Candace** (Jane Young's sister), **Patti Moffa** (Alyse Cafasso's friend), **Amy Griffith**, **Adele Ebert** (Shell's mom), **Paul** (Susan De Bell's brother), **Michael Clark** (Sharon Hollick's son in law)

FINANCIALS

HOW TO DONATE TO FRC:

Give Electronically: Have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from your checking or savings account and transferred directly into the church account safely and electronically. You can also scan the QR code to donate or visit our website at www.firstreformedchurch.com and choose the blue "Donate" button.

In Person: Drop your check at the office or place it in the offering during worship.

Mail: To The First Reformed Church, Attn: Ann Marie Ziffer (Finance Manager), 529 Newark Pompton Tpke., Pompton Plains, NJ 07444.

