

# Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

## February 9, 2025

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### Gathering

#### PRELUDE

*Lori Yost, Musician*

*During the prelude, please take a quiet moment to prepare your hearts and minds for worship*

#### WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

*Rev. Mary Marcus*

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### Expansion of Our Hearts

#### CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)* Isaiah 6

Let us give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts!

**Everything in us says, "THANK YOU!" Angels listen as we give our thanks.**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne and the hem of his robes filled the Temple.

**Angel-seraphs hovered above the Lord, each with six wings. With two they covered their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew.**

They shouted back and forth one to another saying,  
**"Holy, Holy, Holy is the God-of-the-Angel Armies.**

**All the earth is full of God's glory."**

The door frames shook at the sound of their voices and smoke filled the temple!

**Let us join voices on earth with voices in the heavens as we sing together.**

#### \*GATHERING HYMN #3 *(Blue book)* "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" v. 1-3

*Brooke Burgin, Song Leader*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(responsive)*

Holy God,

Your glory fills our churches and our whole world. You call us into your holiness: to follow you in the footsteps of Jesus.

**Yet we confess how often our ears are deaf to Jesus' call and our feet slow to walk in Jesus' way. Knowing our failings, we echo Isaiah's call "Woe are we!"**

**Forgive us, Holy God. Cleanse us and renew us by your Spirit. Strengthen us to follow you. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *(responsive)*

Beloved of God, believe this good news: our sin is blotted out! So let us join our voices with the voice of Isaiah. When asked of the Lord, "Whom shall I send and who will go for me?"

**Forgiven and free to breathe, we reply, "I'm right here; send me!"**

Hymn #3 *(Blue book)* "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" v. 4

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

*Children and youth are invited to leave for their classes.*

SPECIAL MUSIC "Follow Me" by Leeland Mooring, Jack Mooring and Ed Cash

*Martin Williams Guitar, Michele Crefeld & Brooke Burgin, Vocals*

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### 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 Luke 5:1-11 (NRSVUE)

*Susan Breznak, 8:30 Reader & Joann Warner, 10:00 Reader*

*Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, 2 he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."*

*5 Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." 6 When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"*

*9 For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." 11 When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.*

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

MESSAGE "Jesus to Leave and Leaving with Jesus"

*Rev. Mary Marcus*

## Transformation of Our Lives

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SONG OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE **#269** (*Green book*)

**“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”** v. 1 & 2 *in English*

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

*~Parts of our prayers are from the World Communion of Reformed Churches*

Living God, **help us re-form the world.**

OFFERING & OFFERTORY (*10:00 a.m. only*)

DOXOLOGY **#815** (*Blue book*)

## Compassion For the World

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\*SENDING SONG **#676** (*Blue book*) **“Oh Jesus, I Have Promised”**

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

\*POSTLUDE

*\* Indicates to please, stand, if able.*

*The altar flowers today are offered in memory of Jack R. Horner given by Pat Horner & family  
and in memory of Arline Friedrich, given by Jan Friedrich*



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## TODAY & THIS WEEK – FEB. 9, 2025



### WELCOME REV. MARY MARCUS

**TODAY:** Rev. Mary Marcus will be preaching and leading worship on Sunday as both Pastor Stacey and Pastor Dave will be away leading the annual Consistory Retreat. Pastor Mary will preach on Luke 5:1-11. Her sermon is entitled "Asking Jesus to Leave and Leaving with Jesus"

**EMAIL SCAM:** Unfortunately scammers try to scam church-folk too. This week we were made aware that some congregation members have received an email claiming to be from an FRC pastor asking for gift cards. Please be aware that FRC pastors or staff will never ask for money or gift cards in this manner. If you receive an email that seems "off", please check the sending email address and feel free to call the church office to check legitimacy.

**A MESSAGE FROM HEALTH & WELLNESS TEAM:** The Health and Wellness Team is requesting that due to a surge of Flu, Covid, and RSV, that you refrain from any hugging and kissing when passing the peace to fellow congregants. Also use the hand sanitizers that are available as you enter the worship spaces. Thank you and STAY HEALTHY

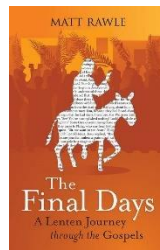
## THINGS TO KNOW

**MATERNITY LEAVE DETAILS FOR PASTOR STACEY:** Pastor Stacey and Pastor Zach are due to celebrate the arrival of their little one on March 5, 2025. While they can't be sure the exact moment their little one will make his arrival, Pastor Stacey will plan to be working at the church as close to her due date as is possible and healthy for her and the baby. At that point, she will be out of the office for 12 weeks of maternity leave. During that time, Pastor Stacey will not be available on phone, email, or for pastoral care. She has worked with the FRC Consistory to create a plan for coverage and implemented coverage in her absence. FRC Pastoral Care Staff Roland Petit will be helping Pastor Dave with pastoral care requests. In worship, FRC will be blessed with some guest preachers in addition to Pastor Dave including Rev. Mary Marcus and Rev. Cheryl Daniel. The FRC Worship Team has worked with Pastor Stacey to create plans for Holy Week including the Maundy Thursday service and the Good Friday Passion Walk.

**PIANO DONATED IN GRACE CHAPEL IN HONOR OF MAE RIENSTRA:** A new digital piano has been given to FRC for use in Grace Chapel in honor of Mae Rienstra (wife of Rev. Andy Rienstra and mother to Karen Borduin). Please join us in giving thanks for Mae's life and legacy and the generosity of Karen Borduin and her family for this gift.

**HEART HEALTHY BREAKFAST - FEBRUARY 23 FROM 9:00-10:30 A.M. IN GRACE CHAPEL - TICKETS AVAILABLE AFTER EACH SERVICE ON FEBRUARY 9TH AND FEBRUARY 16TH :** Plan to join us for our annual Heart Healthy Breakfast on February 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. You can join us either before 2nd service or after 1st service in Grace Chapel. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 12. Remember February is Heart Month. A time to eat healthy, start exercising, and meditate to relieve stress. BE KIND TO YOUR HEART!

## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



### LENTEN STUDY – "THE FINAL DAYS: A LENTEN JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPELS" by Rev. Matt Rawle

This Lent, ponder the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love. The four New Testament Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, aren't the same story, but they offer the same Resurrection hope. Each Gospel offers a different lens through which we understand Jesus' Passion. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday – March 5th. Small groups are forming. Please go online to register for a small group or independent study. Contact Pastor Dave Sippel in the church office if you have any questions. [dave@frc-pp.org](mailto:dave@frc-pp.org)

## GIVE/SERVE

**MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY:** The mission of the month for February will support the Pequannock Food Pantry. The Pequannock Township Food Pantry is sponsored by over 17 different organizations in Pequannock, Pompton Plains, and the surrounding communities. It is housed in Friendship Hall at First Reformed Church and serves over 90 families a month from our town. To donate, you can mail in a check, place it in the collection during worship, or donate online securely through our website on the line item: "Mission of the Month." Make checks payable to FRC and note "February Communion" in the memo line. If you would like information about becoming a client or organizing a food drive, call (973) 835-1145.

**APPLY TO ATTEND RCA ECUMENICAL EVENTS:** The Reformed Church in America (RCA) Commission on Christian Unity (CCU) and the Classis of Passaic Valley are inviting you to attend RCA ecumenical events! Pastor Stacey along with Rev. Nathan Busker and Rev. Kim Pavlovich have applied for a Classis Grant which allows members of our Classis (you!) to attend ecumenical events at little or no cost. To apply to an event, please come to the church office for an application and apply by the date indicated. New events and applications will be shared throughout the year. Below is the first event you can apply to attend:

## Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) 2025

### Advocacy Summit - Washington D.C. March 19-20,

**2025:** Join Churches for Middle East Peace in Washington, DC at our annual Advocacy Summit March 19-20th, 2025. Day one of the summit, Wednesday, March 19th will include remarks from several expert speakers, updates from CMEP staff, and advocacy training. On Day Two, Thursday, March 20th, you will have the opportunity to put all you've learned into action on Capitol Hill, as you meet with the offices of your senators and representatives. *Deadline to apply: February 18, 2025*

**GRAINS OF HOPE FOOD PACKING EVENT:** Join us on March 22 & 23, 2025 for the Grains of Hope food packaging event. The event will be held at the P.V. Middle School. We will pack nutritionally fortified macaroni and cheese meals for the hungry. Each job is simple, and we will show you how to do it! We will need volunteers on Saturday (set up day) as well as Sunday. Last year, we went over the two million meal mark and this year we will be kicking off our journey to three million with another one hundred meal event. Registration link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grains-of-hope-2025-meal-packing-event-in-pequannock-nj-registration-1106423254739?aff=oddttdcreator>

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT – MARCH 7TH TO 9TH,

**2025:** Get away for a weekend of fun and personal growth. The Winter Retreat is a great place for high school youth to unwind and relax with a group of friends. It can even be a great way to prepare for a busy end to the school year. We'll have lots of fun activities, but you'll also have an opportunity for quiet reflection on what God is doing in your life. Join us for this life-changing event. Spruce Lake Retreat Center in the Pocono Mountains. All high school youth should plan to attend this memorable event. We'll depart at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, the 7th and return at around 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Cost is \$175.00. Registration is open online.

**FUEL YOUTH GROUP:** Middle school and high school youth gather weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Please reach out to Pastor Dave if you need any assistance or support. [dave@frc-pp.org](mailto:dave@frc-pp.org)

## FINANCIALS

### HOW TO DONATE TO FRC:

**Give Electronically:** Do you know you can have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from your checking or savings account and transferred directly into the church account safely and electronically? Visit our website [www.firstreformedchurch.com](http://www.firstreformedchurch.com) and choose the blue "Donate" button. You can also scan the QR code to donate. **In Person:** Drop your check at the office or place it in kiosk or the offering during worship.



**IN RESPONSE TO THE CALIFORNIA FIRES:** Below are two trusted options for donations for fire victims. These were recommended by leaders of the RCA Far West Region. Please donate directly to whichever site you choose.

World Renew prioritizes assisting homeowners

who are uninsured, elderly, low income, or otherwise unable to recover from a disaster on their own. These efforts will begin once the fires are under control and access to affected areas is granted.

<https://worldrenew.net/>

A more local organization would be Food Finders. They have responded in providing the immediate needs for food, clothing and personal items.

<https://foodfinders.org/>

## PRAYERS & CONCERNS

### CONCERNS:

Prayers for our nation and for peace in our world

Prayers for all those affected by the fires in California

**Gene Trappe**, hospitalized this past week. Cards to 16 Winfield Ave., Pompton Plains 07444

**Sarha**, friend of Pauline McKeown, recovering from surgery for thyroid cancer

**Joyce Harper**, Forrest's wife. When starting a hip replacement surgery on 1/31, they found she also had a fractured femur. Prayers for her recovery

**Lori Osborne**, recovering from surgery for rotator cuff this past week. Will be staying with the Philipson's for several weeks to recover.

**12-year-old Jayden**, family friend of the Kamp's, recovering from brain surgery to remove a mass in the cerebellum.

**Bill Fairbanks**, Traci Bopp's uncle and Lew Shafer's brother-in-law, hospitalized in Chilton with GI issues.

**Johanna Hathaway**, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Upcoming surgery scheduled for Feb. 13. Cards to 34 Grove St., Lincoln Park 07035

**Joyce Gruzdis**, needs prayers for ongoing health issues. Cards to 7 Ferndale Place, Pompton Plains 07444

**Beverly Adams**, Jennifer Adams' mother, diagnosed with blood cancer. Will be receiving a chemo pill for treatment. Prayers for her during treatment and recovery.

**Anita Yeats**, at a care facility receiving hospice. Cards to Lincoln Park Care Center, 499 Pinebrook Rd., Lincoln Park 07035.

**Debbie Sackmann**, recovering from ankle surgery. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> surgery on this ankle. Prayers for full recovery. Cards to 67 Mandeville Ave., Pequannock 07440

**Elsie**, Kim Lampe's mother, Fractured shoulder. Is recovering in a rehab facility.

**Barbara Livingstone**, appreciative of all the prayers. She took a fall and injured her left hand. Cards 735 Cannella Way, Riverdale 07457

**Chris Woods**, neck surgery is scheduled for May 13th.

**John Woods**, Chris' husband, getting radiation treatments for lung cancer to shrink tumor. Cards to 209 Comly Rd., Apt. K20, Lincoln Park 07035

**Kristen**, close friend to Ann's daughter Carolyn, vision issues are improving after special medication and eye drop regimen. Prayers for a full recovery of her vision

**William (Bill) Erickson** (brother-in-law of Frank and Rose Chara), starting another round of chemotherapy

**LONG TERM CONCERNS:**

**Christopher Martin** (Pat Lento's relative) myocarditis, **Ed** (Jodi Chere's father), **Kin Larkin**, at home with hospice care, **Joan Williams**, (sister-in-law to Martin Williams), **Steven Janowicz** (son of former members Joyce and George), **Tom Brown** (friend of Frank & Rose Chara), **Colleen Erickson** (niece of Rose & Frank Chara), **Lorraine Nichols**, **John De Falco**, **Judy Napoli**, **Karen Milligan**, **Heather** (Tony's daughter-in-law), **Brandi** (friend of Ann Marie Ziffer), **Nancy Crefeld** (Pete's mom), **Kathryn Dontje** (Barbara Ball's daughter), **Brenda** (Barbara Ball's daughter), **Judy Lento** (Pat Lento's sister in law), **Charles Cunningham**, **Dee Patrick**, **Jim**, (Lynn Rayner's brother), **Candace** (Jane Young's sister), **Amy Griffith**, **Adele Ebert** (Shell's mom), **Paul** (Susan De Bell's brother), **Michael Clark** (Sharon Hollick's son-in-law), **Johanna Clark** (sister of Michael Clark)