

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

Gathering

PRELUDE

Traci Bopp, Musician

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

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Rev. Dave Sippel, Pastor of Discipleship, Mission, and Outreach Leadership

Expansion of Our Hearts

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

God our souls are "well" because you are our well of life.

When we are tired and weary...

Hold us in the ocean of your love.

When we are stuck and need direction...

Direct us with the current of your Spirit.

When we are discouraged and need a glimmer of hope...

Sustain us with the fountain of your Word.

When we feel far from wholeness...

Spring up new life in us. You are our well of life that never runs dry.

*GATHERING SONG "**Blessed Be Your Name**" *by Beth and Matt Redman*

Brooke Burgin, Song Leader; Martin Williams, Guitar

Verse 1

Blessed be Your name

In the land that is plentiful

Where Your streams of abundance flow

Blessed be Your name

Verse 2

Blessed be Your name

When I'm found in the desert place

Though I walk through the wilderness

Blessed be Your name

Pre-Chorus

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll

Turn back to praise

When the darkness closes in Lord

Still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 3

Blessed be Your name

When the sun's shining down on me

When the world's all as it should be

Blessed be Your name

Verse 4

Blessed be Your name

On the road marked with suffering

Though there's pain in the offering

Blessed be Your name

[PRE-CHORUS]

[CHORUS] – sing twice

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Prayer of Confession

Precious Jesus,

You are the Lord of life and love.

You call us friend and hold us in your love.

In your resurrection power you promise us new life.

Yet we confess how hard it is to believe in these great gifts which come freely from your heart.

When trouble comes, we doubt your presence.

When hardships come, we lean on our own strength rather than trusting in your power to help us.

Forgive us, Lord for our doubt and not turning to you first in life's troubles.

Help us to turn to you anew. That in you we might be embraced by your love and found in your new life.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus is here... WITH us: Jesus' love meets us. Jesus' new life fills us.

People who are loved by God believe the good news:

In Jesus we are forgiven!

In God we are deeply loved!

In the Spirit, we are made new!

Amen.

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

(10:00 a.m. only) Children and youth are invited to leave for their classes.

SPECIAL MUSIC *(10:00 a.m.)* "Hope of The World" *by Lloyd Larson*
Chancel Choir; Kim Lampe, Director

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 John 11: 1-45
Susan DeBell, 8:30 Reader & Olivia Bogert, 10:00 Reader

MESSAGE "God in Grief. God in Joy."
Rev. Stacey Duensing Pearce, Pastor of Worship, Care and Strategic Leadership

Transformation of Our Lives

SONG OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE **#719** *(blue hymnal)*

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

DOXOLOGY **#815** *(blue hymnal)*

Compassion For the World

*SENDING SONG **#145** *(green book)* **"There Is a Redeemer"**

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

*POSTLUDE

** Indicates to please stand, if able.*

*The chancel flowers today are offered in memory of Peter Blake, given by Peggy Blake;
and in memory of Arline Friedrich, given by Jan Friedrich.*



*Hearing assist technology is available during worship services. To find out how to
connect your hearing aids or to borrow a hearing assist device, please see a greeter.*



TODAY & THIS WEEK – MAR. 22, 2026

WELCOME TO FRC: Today is the fifth Sunday of Lent. This Sunday, we will hear the story of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Jesus meets them in a moment of profound grief and then, miraculously brings new life, hope, and joy. Pastor Stacey's sermon on John 11: 1-45 is entitled "God in Grief. God in Joy." Don't forget there is an Easter Egg Hunt directly after the 10:00 a.m. service in the Friendly Manse Backyard!

***TODAY*EASTER EGG HUNT - MARCH 22ND:** Join us for this Young Families Event for Children up to and including 4th graders. It's our Second Annual Easter Egg Hunt being held on Sunday, March 22nd after the 10:00 am church service in the Friendly Manse backyard. This event is weather dependent.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

"CHURCHES OF WELCOME" (Full article on the cover of your Mar/Apr Go Forth) The "Churches of Welcome" program is an opportunity to learn more about refugees and displacement around the world. It is a discipleship opportunity that may result in action steps and service opportunities. For now, we are asking for a small group of people to commit to one thing...listening. The issue of immigration has certainly found its way into our dinner conversations. It was a biblical issue long before it entered our political discourse. Are you interested in learning more? Are you open to listening to the voices of individuals currently living as refugees? Join the "Church of Welcome" study group. Contact Pastor Dave for more information (office phone 973-835-1144 x28 or email dave@frc-pp.org) There are two more opportunities to join us on April 20th and May 18th in the Jr. High Room.

RCA WOMEN'S RETREAT: Registration is now open for the fifth annual "She Is Called" Sabbath Rest Retreat, happening April 10-12, at Grove Hall Christian Retreat Center in Ocean Grove, New Jersey. This invitation is open to women in any type of leadership in a church or faith-based organization, clergy and laity. More information can be found https://reformedchurch.my.salesforce-sites.com/eventlisting/CnP_PaaS_EVT_ExternalRegistrationPage?event_id=a36Vm0000070IH3IAM

THINGS TO KNOW

SPRING TEA FOR 75+ MEMBERS – APRIL 19 IN GRACE CHAPEL: The Pastoral Care Team cordially invites our 75 years young and older members to the Spring Tea on April 19 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in Grace Chapel. Please RSVP to the number on your invitation or by calling the church office at [973-835-1144 x11](tel:973-835-1144). Join us for a fun

filled afternoon as we gather with friends to celebrate Spring!

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, September 13, 2026! The Mission Team will be sponsoring Service Sunday, and we hope everyone in the congregation will participate. More details to follow. If you have an idea for a project, please email

bonnie.l.holmes@gmail.com

or robertnixon9@hotmail.com

Let the Service begin!

HOLY WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR NEWSLETTER FOR FULL DETAILS:

Palm Sunday March 29th – Breakfast (free of charge) at 9:00 am in Friendship Hall & One Service at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday Dinner & Worship April 2nd - 6:30 pm Dinner in Friendship Hall & 7:30 pm Worship in Friendship Hall.

Please sign up if you are planning to attend the meal so enough food can be prepared. (no live stream)

Good Friday- Joint Service with Local Reformed Churches - Friday, April 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary (live streamed)

Good Friday Passion Walk - Friday, April 3rd, from 7:00-9:00 am and 12:00-4:00 pm in Grace Chapel
Self-Guided Prayer Walk through the Story of Jesus' Passion

On Good Friday, Grace Chapel will be set up with a self-guided meditation walk through the story of Christ's Passion, complete with different stations of reflective art, interactive and sensory prayer prompts, and meditative music. Come to spend some time entering into the story of Jesus' amazing love in this immersive experience.

Easter Sunday Services April 5th - 8:30 am & 10:00 am in the Sanctuary (live streamed)

Office Hours During Holy Week

The church office will close at noon on Good Friday and will be closed for Easter Monday.

MISSION/OUTREACH

MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH WILL SUPPORT

FRC YOUTH MISSION: Your Communion offering for March will support and deepen the impact of God's grace in the life of our youth. 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 "March Communion" in the memo line.

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM FRC MISSION TEAM & THE FOOD PANTRY: FRC is NOT accepting any clothing or household goods at this time. PLEASE do not leave bags of these items on the property.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMMING CHANGES FOR EASTER SEASON: Our Spark Kidz and Youth classes will not meet on March 29th or April 5th. There will be special holiday activity packets for the kidz to use during the family friendly Palm Sunday service, as well as the Easter morning services. The nursery will be open for kids age 4 & under, and special age-appropriate activities will be provided there, as well. The FUEL Youth group will not meet on April 1st and April 8th

MIDDLE SCHOOL MYSTERY MISSION RETREAT – MAY 1ST-3RD: Our popular middle school mission weekend is back with a fun, new twist. We'll visit a brand-new mystery location, and have fun together as we serve the community and enjoy some springtime recreation. Cost is \$150. Parents are welcome to ask for more details as long as they can keep a secret! Registration is open on the church website.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE:

For the **Milligan family** after the loss of **Karen's grandmother Charlotte**. Cards to Karen & John (Ian & Charlotte) 306 Broadway, Pompton Lakes 07442

The family of **Robert Mueller**, who passed away March 5. Prayers for comfort for the family.

CONCERNS:

Prayers for peace in the Middle East, especially between the United States, Iran, Israel and Lebanon. Prayers of protection for US service members who are deployed.

Prayers for **Rev. Linda** serving the hungry and homeless in Lebanon who are displaced due to war. Linda is connected in mission to us through our Classis and Ponds Reformed Church. Pray for her ministry that God will supply resources in great need, and for peace and strength for her spirit.

Prayers for **Jim Quigley** who is recovering from surgery: praises for a successful surgery and prayers for healing and good test results. Cards to 11 Lincoln Ave, Pompton Plains 07444

Dee Patrick, in a rehab facility. Cards to 31F Lancaster Court, Wayne, 07470

Joe Testa, in rehab at JDT after a brief hospital stay. Cards to 5103 Tudor Drive, Pompton Plains 07444

Lois Wickham, recovering from hip surgery. Cards to 105 Park View, Pompton Plains 07444

Susan Breznak, recovering from an injury to her back. Cards to 4 Benjamin Place, Pequannock 07440

Prayers for **Kathy Hudson**, mother of Rob Hudson, recovering from hip replacement

Toni, Pat Cunningham's sister, prayers for physical & emotional healing.

Karen Mazur, undergoing testing. Prayers for a clear diagnosis

Barbara Ball, scheduled to be discharged from rehab next week. Prayers for restored health. Cards 19 Cooper Rd. PP 07444

Prayers for **Adam**, friend of **Christine Hudson**, for peace.

Barbara Livingstone, home after a brief hospitalization. Cards to 735 Cannella Way, Riverdale, 07457

LONG TERM CONCERNS:

Jim Quigley, Jamie Spillane (college classmate of Karen & Tom Kamp), **Jennifer Carpentieri, Cindy, Joe** (brother-in-law of Debbie Priestner), **Katie Wilson** (daughter of Linda & Ed) cancer treatment, **Anna Miller** (future daughter-in-law of Kathy & John Shea and future niece of Judy Shivy) **Joyce Gruzdis, Michael Clark** (Sharon Hollick's son-in-law), **Peggy Biondi** (friend of Amy Muller) receiving chemo, **Beverly Adams** (Jennifer Adams' mother) blood cancer, **Carol** (friend of Leeanne Leck) pancreatic cancer, **Sue Rayner**, lung cancer, **Kristen**, vision issues, **Christopher Martin** (Pat Lento's relative) myocarditis, **Steven Janowicz** (son of former members Joyce and George), **Colleen Erickson** (niece of Rose & Frank Chara), cancer issues, **Lorraine Nichols, Judy Napoli, Karen Milligan, Heather** (Tony's daughter-in-law), **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), **Johanna Clark** (sister of Michael Clark)

FINANCIALS

<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		
	Week Ending	
	3/15/2026	3/16/2025
Sunday Collection	\$ 1,425.00	\$ 4,787.18
Electronic Giving	\$ 5,570.40	\$ 4,434.40
Total Weekly Contributions	\$ 6,995.40	\$ 9,221.58
Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)*	\$ 717,863.84	\$ 665,510.00
Weekly Goal*	\$ 13,805.07	\$ 12,798.27
Weekly Collection Surplus/Deficit	\$ (6,809.67)	\$ (3,576.69)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (51,148.41)	\$ (42,172.98)

HOW TO DONATE TO FRC:

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

Give Electronically: 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 and choose the blue "Donate" button. You can also scan the QR code to donate.



RCA DENOMINATIONAL COVENANT SHARE - \$125 PER MEMBER:

Every year, RCA churches contribute a set percentage of the church's income to the denomination. These were called assessments but are now Covenant Shares. It is, as the name suggests, a way to be in covenant and to be on mission together. Your contribution of any amount towards FRC's Covenant Share is greatly appreciated. To donate, use one of the Denominational Assessment envelopes in the back of each worship space and place donation in the kiosk, mail your check to the office in care of Ann Marie Ziffer, Finance Manager, pay online through our secure website www.firstreformedchurch.com Thank you.