

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

Gathering

PRELUDE

Traci Bopp, Keyboard

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

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

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

Expansion of Our Hearts

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

Jesus, Shepherd, speak to us this day your words of life.

You say: "Do not let your hearts be troubled".

Open our hearts to your word and your Spirit!

You say: "I am the way, the truth, and the life"

Guide our lives with your life-giving presence.

You say: "I will do whatever you ask in my name"

Direct our prayers to seek your kingdom's light in our dark world.

Amen! Let us worship God.

*GATHERING SONG #14 *(green book)* **"God, You Call Us to This Place"**

Brooke Burgin, Song Leader

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, way-maker,

Your very presence can guide our lives to truth, purpose, and renewed life.

Yet we so seldom seek your voice or tune our hearts to your presence. We confess the things that keep us from you: distraction, busyness, pride, fear, and worry. Forgive us, gracious Savior.

Good Shepherd, meet our needs. Quiet our anxious souls in the peaceful pastures of your presence. Satisfy our deepest needs in the still waters of your words of life.

We come to you not whole, but broken and ready for your restoration and healing. Fill us today with the life and hope that is you. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

We believe!

In Jesus you are forgiven and made NEW: whole and holy.

Trust the love God freely gives you today.

We believe! We are forgiven and loved by God!

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

(10:00 a.m. only) Children in 5th Grade & under are invited to leave for their classes.

Older children & youth remain in worship.

CHANCEL CHOIR *(10:00 a.m.)* "Open Hearts, Open Hands" *by Ruth Elaine Schram*
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 14: 1-14 (NRSVUE)

Eileen Bundz, 8:30 Reader & Lisa Mackey, 10:00 Reader

1 (Jesus said) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.
2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.
4 And you know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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

MESSAGE "How can we know the way?"

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

Transformation of Our Lives

COMMUNION

Meaning of the Sacrament

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving *(see insert for music)*

Words of Institution

Invitation

Music During Communion *Chris Woods, Native American Cedar Flute*

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

The communion offering today will support Eaglecrest Alaska Missions

DOXOLOGY #815 *(blue hymnal)*

Compassion For the World

*SENDING SONG #564 *(blue hymnal)* **“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”**

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

*POSTLUDE

** Indicates to please stand, if able.*



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.



(973) 835-1144

office@frc-pp.org

www.firstreformedchurch.com

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 2 811

G C/G G All C/G

Leader

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Now lift up your hearts. We lift them in praise. O

G D/F# Em G/D A/C# C2

let us give thanks to the Lord. It is good and it is right, our

A C2 C/E F C/E D

joy and our de-light to give God praise at all

Am7 Dsus D C/G G C/G G

Vamp: may be played under reading

times and in all ways!

(continues)

Text: taken from *Worship the Lord, The Liturgy of the Reformed Church in America* © 2005 Reformed Church Press
 Words: Ron Rienstra © 1999 Ron Rienstra
 Music (DOMINUS VOBISCUM irregular): Ron Rienstra © 1999 Ron Rienstra; arr. Greg Scheer © 2008 Ron Rienstra

Holy and right it is,
 and our joyful duty to give thanks to you
 at all times and in all places,
 O Lord our Creator,
 almighty and everlasting God!
 You created heaven with all its hosts
 and the earth with all its plenty.
 You have given us life and being,
 and preserve us by your providence.

But you have shown us the fullness of your love
 in sending into the world your Son,
 Jesus Christ, the eternal Word,
 made flesh for us and for our salvation.
 For the precious gift of this mighty Savior
 who has reconciled us to you
 we praise and bless you, O God.
 With your whole church on earth
 and with all the company of heaven
 we worship and adore your glorious name.

C/G G D/F# Em G/D A/C# C2

Oh, ho - ly are you, Lord the God of power and might; the
 Ho-san - na! Bless - ed is he! Christ Je - sus, who is come, the

A C2 C/E F C/E D

an - gels veil their sight! Earth is a - flame with the
 Lord's a - noint - ed one: He comes a - gain! Ho -

Am7 Dsus D C/G G C/G G

Vamp

glo - ry of your name!
 san - na, Lord, A - men.

Most righteous God,
 we remember in this Supper
 the perfect sacrifice
 offered once on the cross
 by our Lord Jesus Christ
 for the sin of the whole world.

In the joy of his resurrection
 and in expectation of his coming again,
 we offer ourselves to you
 as holy and living sacrifices.
 Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

THE LORD'S SUPPER

For accompaniment see previous page

G D/F# Em G/D A/C# C2
 Your death, O Christ, we pro-claim. Your ris-ing cel-e-brate!

A C2 C/E F C/E D
 Your com- ing we a- wait, to make all things new.

Am7 Dsus D C/G G
 All glo- ry un- to you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray,
 that the bread which we break
 and the cup which we bless
 may be to us the communion of the body
 and blood of Christ.
 Grant that, being joined together in him,
 we may attain to the unity of the faith
 and grow up in all things
 into Christ, our Lord.

And as this grain has been gathered
 from many fields into one loaf,
 and these grapes from
 many hills into one cup,
 grant, O Lord, that your whole church
 may soon be gathered
 from the ends of the earth
 into your kingdom.
 Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

F C/E D Am7 Dsus D G
 Al- le - lu - ia! Lord! A - men!

The Lord's Supper service continues with the Lord's Prayer, passing of peace, words of institution, and invitation to the table.



TODAY & THIS WEEK – MAY 3, 2026

WELCOME TO FRC: Today we hear Jesus' teaching to his direction-seeking disciples in John 14: 1-14. Pastor Stacey's sermon is entitled "How can we know the way?" In worship we will also celebrate the sacrament of communion.

MAY COMMUNION OFFERING - EAGLECREST ALASKA MISSIONS: Eaglecrest exists to equip Christ-centered disciples by renewing minds through scripture, refreshing hearts for others, and refining abilities for ministry. Through community projects, day camps, cookouts, and special events, they bring the presence of Christ to the people they serve. Donations may be given by check, placed in the collection during worship, or made securely online through our website under "Mission of the Month". Please make checks payable to FRC and note "May Communion" in the memo line.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL MYSTERY MISSION RETREAT: Several of our middle school youth and adults have been away this weekend on a Mystery Mission Trip. Please keep them in your prayers as they served together and traveled as a team. They will be arriving home early this afternoon. The participants on the trip are: Adele Szanto, Autumn Rosen, Teagan Slufik, Talia Conti, Lucas Minassian, Jeffrey Minassian, Dave Sippel, Hayley Bundz and Jessie Bundz.

READERS NEEDED FOR MAY: Please check the schedule and sign up for a week at your convenience.

THINGS TO KNOW

"EXPANDING OUR WELCOME" - A CHURCH LISTENING PROCESS: The FRC Consistory is inviting our whole faith family into a listening process. Check your May Go Forth for all the details (copies are available in the back of the worship space). Pastor Stacey asks those interested in the Bible Study to sign up by May 5th (if possible). There are also sign-ups for personal and group listening sessions. To sign up, go to the Welcome Center in Friendship Hall. You can also use this QR code to sign up specifically for the listening sessions online.

FRC SUMMER SEMINARY INTERN: This Summer FRC will have the joy of hosting a seminary intern: Chloe Roberts from Western Theological Seminary. Her internship is completely funded by a grant from the Classis of Passaic Valley. The goal of Chloe's internship is to provide her with space to grow as an emerging ministry leader. Chloe will also be spending time at Pequannock Reformed Church (with Rev. Debbie Pierce). You will see her preaching a couple Sundays, providing pastoral care, and maybe doing some discipleship activities. Please welcome Chloe this summer!



CONSISTORY NOMINATIONS OPEN THROUGH MAY 17: This year, nominations are sought for one Deacon and two Elders, each for a three-year term. Terms ending includes Elders Mark Halliday and Kim Lampe, and

Deacon Christina DiBiasi. Nominations close Sunday, May 17. Nomination forms are available in the back of each worship space and may be placed in the black collection box or dropped at the office.

MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY MAY 24: Pentecost Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our life together as a church. During the 10:00 a.m. service, we will be welcoming new members into this church family. Please consider joining the church on Sunday, May 24. Those interested in learning more about the church should plan to attend a membership gathering on either Sunday, May 10 or May 17. We will meet downstairs in the Ministry Center at 11:15 a.m. Please contact Pastor Dave if you are interested in joining the church dave@frc-pp.org

"CHURCHES OF WELCOME": 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. 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 is one more opportunity scheduled to join us on May 18th in the Jr. High Room at 6:30 p.m.

MEMORIAL DAY SCHEDULE: The Annual Honor of placing flags on Veterans graves will take place Saturday 5/16 @ 9:00 a.m. All volunteers are welcome for this special day. **On Sunday, May 24, we will worship together at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary (no early service).** The township parade will take place Monday, May 25, beginning at 10:00 a.m. from Maresca Lumber and ending at the grandstand in front of the church, where a special prayer will be offered.

MISSION/OUTREACH/SUPPORT

FRC NEEDS TO REPLACE OUR CHURCH VAN: Our vibrant FRC youth ministry relies on the FRC van for transportation to their yearly retreats, mission trips, and even local outings. Pastor Dave and a fundraising team are aiming to raise \$40,000 for a used Ford Transit 15-passenger van. Consistory hopes this van can support FRC ministry even outside our youth ministry. You can give online on our website to the "Van Fund".

FISH & CHIPS DINNER - MAY 14 IN FRIENDSHIP HALL - 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.: Our annual Fish and Chips Dinner, catered by *Tastefully British*, will be held on Thursday, May 14. Register online or grab an order form in either worship space. Sign up by May 11 at noon. The cost for dinner is \$22, and there is also a chicken option. You can dine in or take out. *The Women's Ministry will donate the profits from this fundraiser to the purchase of a church van.* To volunteer for an hour or two, contact Nancy Grimbilas at ngrimbilas@optonline.net

YOUTH MINISTRY BEEFSTEAK FUNDRAISER FRIDAY, JUNE 12: Please consider coming to a wonderful night of beefsteak dinner and fellowship with your church friends.

The dinner will be held at the Bloomingdale Firehouse on Hamburg Turnpike. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Bloomingdale Fireman's Hall, 97 Hamburg Turnpike, Bloomingdale, NJ 07403. In addition to the dinner, you will also have a chance to participate in a fun raffle event. Tickets are \$65 per person. Please go online to purchase your tickets now. See the May/June Go Forth for more details. https://givebutter.com/2026_frc-van_beefsteak

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EMPTY BOWLS COOKIE SALE: Purchase sweet treats for Mother's Day on May 9 from 9:00-11:00 am in Grace Chapel.

TRAVEL SIZE ITEMS NEEDED: We continue to collect travel size hygiene items for Bessie Green. There is a box outside the office, or they may be left in the Food Pantry closet in the Friendship Hall lobby. Reminder - 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

COMMUNION PREPARATION CLASS: Kids in grade 2 and up are invited to join us for our communion class during Spark Kidz time on May 10 and 17. This class prepares kids to participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. A First Communion celebration will be held during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on June 7. Register online on the Spark Kidz webpage or contact Janet for more information janet@frc-pp.org

FUEL YOUTH GROUP: Middle school and high school youth are invited for snacks, activities and a lesson to get growing. FUEL meets in Friendship Hall on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friends are always welcome!

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE:

For the family of **Jan Friedrich**, who passed onto glory on April 27. Visitation is today from 2-5 pm at Scanlan's. Cards to his family (daughter Jana & son Stephen) at 18 Rockledge Terrace, Pompton Plains 07444

For the family of **Debbie Priestner**, who passed away on April 21. A service will be held June 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Cards to her daughter Carly Johnson, 17 Hartung Ave, Riverdale, 07457

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.

Marlene, Jo Bradford's cousin, diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Prayers for comfort.

William DeBell, Susan's husband, health concerns

Brian Kaiser, close friend of Rich & Guion Valle, serious health concerns. Prayers for recovery for Brian and strength for all who love him

Katie Wilson, the family is asking for extra prayers as she prepares for surgery to remove her ovaries since the cancer there has grown.

Linda, stepmom of Traci Bopp, fell and broke her wrist. She had surgery Monday and is recovering.

Kathy Hudson, mother of Rob Hudson, recovering from hip replacement. At home now

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

LONG TERM CONCERNS:

Susan Breznak, **Lois Wickham**, **Dee Patrick**, **Michael Angelucci** (the son of a friend of Gail Trappe), **Michele Brauman** (sister-in-law of Joanna Minassian & Meg Sturm), **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**, **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	
	4/19/2026	4/20/2025*
Sunday Collection	\$ 2,198.00	\$ 3,753.00
Electronic Giving	\$ 6,636.40	\$ 5,819.40
Total Weekly Contributions	\$ 8,834.40	\$ 9,572.40
Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)*	\$ 717,863.84	\$ 665,510.00
Weekly Goal*	\$ 13,805.07	\$ 12,798.27
Weekly Collection Surplus/Deficit	\$ (4,970.67)	\$ (3,225.87)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (47,464.92)	\$ (60,362.40)

<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		
	Week Ending	
	4/26/2026	4/27/2025
Sunday Collection	\$ 3,129.00	\$ 11,937.00
Electronic Giving	\$ 5,458.90	\$ 4,848.90
Total Weekly Contributions	\$ 8,587.90	\$ 16,785.90
Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)*	\$ 717,863.84	\$ 665,510.00
Weekly Goal*	\$ 13,805.07	\$ 12,798.27
Weekly Collection Surplus/Deficit	\$ (5,217.17)	\$ 3,987.63
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (52,682.10)	\$ (56,374.77)

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.

