

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2024

Gathering

PRELUDE *Traci Bopp, Musician*

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION
Dave Sippel, Pastor of Discipleship & Missional Engagement

Expansion of Our Hearts

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*
Lord of this lenten season, guide us through the wilderness of our world.
May your mercy be our guide!
Sweet Savior, shepherd us through the wild-ness of our souls.
May your love light the way!
Holy Spirit, blow away the cobwebs in our hearts and breathe new beginnings in our journey with you.
May your breath of new life empower us! We walk with you into the wild places and through the wilderness.
Oh Good Shepherd, be our guide!

GATHERING SONG **#633** *(Blue Hymnal)* "Open Our Eyes, Lord"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(responsive)*
God of Resurrection,
Through Jesus you invite us to a new way of living:
To lose our life and find it in you. To let go to live.
We confess we doubt your resurrection power in our lives. We are afraid to let go of the things that aren't of you. We wonder what new life you could possibly bring us.
By your Spirit, help us to trust each day is a new beginning. Through your power and love create resurrection each moment in us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE *(responsive)*
Friends, hear this good news. God is life! God is love! God gently moves our doubt to faith by the Holy Spirit and forgives us.
By your Spirit, God, create resurrection in 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 a.m. only)* "Hymn to the Cross"
Words by Thomas Tiplady; arranged by Keith Christopher
Chancel Choir, Kim Lampe, Interim 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 12:20-33, NRSVUE
Frank Chara (8:30 AM) & Tom Kamp (10 AM), Readers

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." 29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." 30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

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

Transformation of Our Lives

SONG OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE **#597** *(Blue Hymnal)*
"Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated" v. 1-2, 4-6

MISSION MOMENT: JESS STUPSKI

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Congregation is invited to join in the prayers when prompted in the Pastor’s prayer:

Lord in your mercy

...**Hear our Prayer**

INVITATION FOR CONNECTION & CONTRIBUTION

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

DOXOLOGY *(10 a.m. only)* **#815** *(Blue Hymnal)*

Compassion For the World

*SENDING SONG **#415** *(Blue Hymnal)* "**We Are Called to Be God's People**"

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

*POSTLUDE

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



TODAY & THIS WEEK-MARCH 17, 2024

TODAY IN WORSHIP: So glad you joined us for worship this Sunday, March 17th! And Happy St. Patrick's Day! In worship, we will hear from John 12: 20-33 the astounding words of Jesus that *"unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life."* In Pastor Stacey's sermon, she'll discuss the good news of resurrection, the audacity of new life, and the science behind how plants grow. Her sermon title is "Photomorphogenesis." Curious? Listen today to hear more!

SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR TODAY TO SAY FAREWELL TO ADDIE SCATTAGLIA: Please join us after the second service as Pastor Stacey says a blessing for Addie and we celebrate her over 50 years with FRC!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER TONIGHT: If you bought tickets for this event, please bring them with you for admission at 5:30 p.m. in Friendship Hall.



***NEXT SUNDAY*PALM SUNDAY SERVICES: SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024, 8:30 A.M. & 10:00 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY:** Join us for worship as we celebrate Jesus'

triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the start of Holy Week. During worship we will sing "Hosanna" and wave palms. After both worship services, stick around during coffee hour for a tutorial of how to fold your palm frond into a cross that you can take home with you.

***NEXT SUNDAY*EASER SPARK KIDZ YOUNG FAMILIES EVENT:** After church on Palm Sunday, March 24, a fun event will take place where kids up to 5th grade can be creative and adults can connect. Meet in Friendship Hall after the second service until noon.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER



***SIGN UP BY MARCH 21*MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 28TH DINNER AT 6:00 P.M. IN FRIENDSHIP HALL & WORSHIP BEGINS AT 6:45 P.M.:** Join us Maundy Thursday as we

remember Jesus sharing the Passover meal with his disciples. We will "enter the story" with an interactive worship experience. We will begin the evening gathered around tables for a meal in Friendship Hall at 6:00 p.m. At 6:45 p.m., we will start worship by inviting each table to participate in the story by washing each other's hands and serving one another communion. Next, we will follow Jesus and his disciples to the "garden" (sanctuary) where we will end the worship service with reflective prayer. All ages are welcome! *Please RSVP for*

the dinner by signing up online or in Friendship Hall by Saturday, March 21st. If possible, the Congregational Life Team would be grateful if those planning to attend the meal could bring a dessert to share (sign up to bring a dessert on the RSVP sign-up sheet).

GOOD FRIDAY- PASSION WALK - FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH FROM 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. IN FRC SANCTUARY:

On Good Friday, the FRC Sanctuary will be set up with a self-guided meditation walk through the story of Christ's Passion, complete with different stations of reflective art, prayer prompts, and meditative music. Come anytime from 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Good Friday to spend some time entering the story of Jesus' amazing love in this immersive experience.

GOOD FRIDAY- JOINT SERVICE WITH LOCAL REFORMED CHURCHES ON FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH AT 7:00 P.M.

POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH: Good Friday tells us the story of just how far Jesus will go in love for us. This year we will be joining Pompton Reformed and Preakness Reformed churches to worship together with combined choirs participating. The service will be held at Pompton Reformed Church, 59 Hamburg Tpk, Pompton Lakes, 07442. Join us as we experience the darkness of Good Friday, making our hearts ready for the light and resurrection of Easter.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES - MARCH 31ST , 8:30 A.M. AND

10:00 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY: Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! Join us for a joyful and vibrant Easter celebration. Both services will be celebrated in the sanctuary. In-person services will be live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. The services will be led by our vocalists and Chancel Choir, with brass accompaniment. Join us as we celebrate the greatest news ever heard - God's love has conquered death and Jesus is alive! Invite your friends and family to worship with you.

EVENTS & THINGS TO KNOW

SEARCH TEAM UPDATE FOR NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

The Search Team for the Director of Music and Worship Arts has been meeting. Their work so far has included reviewing the current job description for the position and talking about areas that need to be added or revised. They reviewed the 2019 FRC Congregational Survey that provided input and ideas on worship at FRC. They are planning to conduct a new survey to engage the congregation's current thoughts and input. The team would like to express their thanks to interim choir director Kim Lampe and song leader Brooke Burgin for their faithful and willing service in our church at this time for the foreseeable future. Lastly, the team continues to welcome your thoughts, feedback, questions and most importantly prayers. Questions can be directed to musicdirector@frc-pp.org

***SAVE THE DATE*BEA KETTLEWOOD ARTWORK SHARE:**
Beatrice Card Kettlewood is a beloved saint of FRC. Bea’s memory, love, and legacy live on in our hearts and our stories. All of Bea’s artwork has been left to First Reformed Church and a “Friends of Bea Committee” has been started to find a way to rehome Bea’s artwork into the hands and homes of people who will treasure it. On Saturday, April 13th, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 14th, from 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. the “Friends of Bea Committee” will have an “Artwork Share” in Friendship Hall open to the church family and community. At this artwork share, hundreds of pieces of Bea’s artwork will be displayed, and attendees will be able to take artwork home. Suggested donations for the paintings will be listed and the proceeds will be donated to the Cemetery for use towards the restoration of the historic cemetery fence. Checks should be written to First Reformed Church with “BCK” in the memo line. *Please note that monetary donations given at this event will not be reflected in your normal FRC giving statement as you will be receiving artwork to take home, therefore these donations are not tax deductible.*

SERVE/SUPPORT

COMMUNION OFFERING FOR MARCH WILL SUPPORT FRC YOUTH MISSION: Your communion offering will support and deepen the impact of God’s grace on the life of our youth. The youth group has two mission trips planned this year. Middle school youth will serve for two-days at a mystery location in April. Our high school youth are traveling to New England for a week of service alongside local churches and community programs. 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.

PEQUANNOCK FOOD PANTRY CURRENT NEEDS: Baked Beans, *Tissues, Mayonnaise, Mustard / Ketchup *Packaged Milk (like Parmalat), Protein drinks (Ensure / Boost), Canned or Pkg Fruit, Snacks cookies, cracker, pretzels & chips, Beverages, Coffee or Tea (decaf and regular), Dish Detergent, Sauces, like BBQ & Teriyaki, Potatoes – pkg or boxed, Canned chicken / turkey, Stew (Dinty Moore), Complete meals like (Hormel), Spam, Chili, Pickles, Olives black and green, Pancake syrup, Sugar / flour in 1 -2 lb. packages, Pasta or Rice sides, Applesauce, *SpaghettiOs (original), Corned Beef Hash, Paper towels, Pasta sauce, Spinach / Asparagus / Wax Beans / Lima beans / Peas &Carrots

SPARK KIDZ

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES: Children should come to worship at 10:00 a.m. They will be dismissed from there to their classes. Spark Kidz meets upstairs in the Ministry Center. Contact is Janet Chardavoyne. janet@frc-pp.org

IGNITE & FUSE YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL MYSTERY MISSION RETREAT – APRIL 19TH TO 21ST: Our popular middle school mission trip 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. Registration is open online. Parents are

welcome to ask for more details as long as they can keep a secret!

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 Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friends are always welcome! Join us anytime.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

JOYS:
Bob Branford, Linda Rooney’s friend that was undergoing treatment for throat cancer, is now cancer free!! Prayers for continued healing

CONCERNS:
Gene McKeown, prayers for health after having surgery. Cards to 277 Boulevard, PP 07444
Prayers for **Matt Moguillanes**, as he recovers from cataract surgery this past week. Cards to 6 Reeve Ave, Bloomingdale 07403
Please hold in prayer **Zach Pearce’s church**, who has been in a discussion about merging with another congregation and the official vote is being held April 14
Eunice Bird, released from hospital and in a rehab center, prayers for continued recovery
Frank Scangarella, hospitalized, prayers for healing
Barbara Livingstone, prayers for comfort to help with ongoing pain. Cards to 735 Cannella Way, Riverdale 07457

LONG TERM CONCERNS:
Colleen Erickson (niece of Rose & Frank Chara), **Lorraine Nichols, John De Falco, Judy Napoli, Kaitlyn Rubano, Karen Milligan, Bob** (friend of Linda Rooney), **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, Gail Berkshire** (Jane Young’s friend), **Jeanine Tedeschi**, (Rose Chara’s niece), **Dolores Garritano** (Gloria Krueger’s sister) **Peter Garritano & Jim Jenkins** (family of Gloria Krueger), **Maggie Bowsher's brother Jake, 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: Please reflect in prayerful consideration how you can support 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** checks to The First Reformed Church, Attn: Ann Marie Ziffer (Finance Manager), 529 Newark Pompton Tpke., Pompton Plains, NJ 07444.

