

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

Gathering

PRELUDE *Lori Yost, Musician*
WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION
Dave Sippel, Pastor of Discipleship and Missional Engagement

Expansion of Our Hearts

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 98 *(responsive)*
Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth!
May our lives ring with jubilant song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
For God has done marvelous things!
The Lord has made his salvation known to all the nations...
..and God's love and faithfulness to God's people.
*GATHERING SONG #14 *(Green book)* "**God, You Call Us to This Place**"
Brooke Burgin, Song Leader

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

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, you gave your whole self in love for us. And you call us as your people and your church to follow your path of self-giving, sacrificial love.

Yet we confess how we seek security by holding onto things. It is difficult to open our heart to love our neighbor when it costs us. It is difficult to forgo love of power and empower others. It is difficult to give of resources when we are worried for our own security.

Gentle Jesus, remind us that you are our source of life that will never run dry. You fill us even as we give. You empower us even as we empower others. You love us even as we love. You call us to a new vision of community with a reality of abundance rather than a mindset of scarcity. Help us to trust these promises and to live grounded in your generosity. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

*(10 a.m. only) Children in 5th Grade & under are invited to leave for their classes.
Older children & youth remain in worship)*

SPECIAL MUSIC *(10:00 a.m. only)* "Make My Life an Alleluia" *by Ruth Elaine Schram
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 Acts 4:32-35, NIV *Hayley Bundz (8:30 a.m.) Reader*

The Believers Share Their Possessions

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

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

MESSAGE "The Economy of God's Kingdom: From Scarcity to Abundance"
Rev. Stacey Duensing Pearce, Pastor of Worship, Care and Strategic Leadership

Transformation of Our Lives

COMMUNION

Meaning of the Sacrament

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving *(sung: see insert)*

Words of Institution

Invitation

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION #247 *(Green book)* "**Table of Plenty**"

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please join the prayers with the following response:

God of Resurrection...

Hear our Prayer

INVITATION FOR CONNECTION & CONTRIBUTION

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**

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

The Chancel flowers this week are given in memory of Ann Marie Duane, whose service was held here yesterday, and Matthew Duane Cunningham given by their loving family

** Indicates to please stand, if able.*



TODAY-MAY 5, 2024



SERMON SERIES CONTINUES:

Today in worship, we will celebrate the sacrament of communion and we will hear a rather unusual story from the early church where they

share *everything* with one another. Will there be enough to go around!?! Pastor Stacey preaches a sermon on Acts 4:32-35 entitled "From Scarcity to Abundance". In worship we experience the abundance of God's table and the good news that even as we give ourselves in love for others, God is our well that never runs dry. So glad you joined us today!

COMMUNION OFFERING FOR MAY WILL SUPPORT

EAGLECREST ALASKA MISSIONS: Eaglecrest Alaska Missions is a unique mix of intense experiences designed to equip and empower individuals to become Christ-centered disciples in their world! They seek to bring the presence of Christ by enhancing life in the community and beyond through work projects, day camps, weekly cookouts, and special events. The uniqueness of this experience is based on their location (doesn't get any better than Alaska!), the opportunity to serve, and the encouragement of spiritual development. To donate, you can mail in a check, place it in the collection during worship any week in May, or donate online securely through our website on the line item: "Mission of the Month." Make checks payable to FRC and note "May Communion" in the memo line.

*TODAY*PLAN TO JOIN US 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!!



*ORDERS DUE TOMORROW*FISH & CHIPS DINNER - THURSDAY, MAY 9

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 9 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 6 at 3:00 p.m.**

THINGS TO KNOW

CONSISTORY NOMINATIONS HAVE BEGUN:

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 19.**

CONSIDERING BECOMING A MEMBER OF FRC?

First Reformed Church will be receiving new members on Sunday, June 16th at the 9:00 a.m. Outdoor Service. New member informational gatherings will be held at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, May 26 and Sunday, June 2. Feel free to join us even if you're just exploring the option of membership. Reach out to Pastor Dave if you're interested in joining or if you have any questions. dave@frc-pp.org

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT BESSIE GREEN COMMUNITY:

Bessie Green Community has a particular need for the following items: Razors, women's sanitary pads, women's casual summer blouses, prom gowns and jeans. Please wash clothing items. Donations may be brought to the collection bin outside the church office Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and on Sundays during church hours.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY FOR THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS SEARCH TEAM:

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 through 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 once 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 is open! 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 9:00 a.m. - 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. To register, go to our website under GROW/Youth Children or <https://vbspro.events/p/471f6b>

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY DINNER FOR PASTOR STACEY:

On Sunday, June 9 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!

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 2. Register on the FRC website Grow/Youth & Children

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 29, June 5, June 12. Our summer kickoff will be held on Wednesday, June 19. 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.

CONCERNS:

Peace in our world

Prayers for **David Hathaway** (son of Johanna Hathaway) who had surgery this week for a collapsed lung and is recovering in the hospital.

Louise Marchese, scheduled for hernia surgery on May 8. Cards to: 16 Roland Rd. Pequannock, NJ 07440

Tom Brown, friend of Frank & Rose Chara, being treated with radiation for head & neck cancer. Cards to 30 Laytham Dr., Wayne 07470

Dorothy Dale, Janet Chardavoyne and Jennifer Petruccelli's mother, was hospitalized but moved to JDT for rehab this past week. Prayers for continued healing. Cards in c/o Jennifer 12 Alpine Dr., Kinnelon 07405

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 recovering from hip surgery this past week

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

Colby Douglas, recovering from surgery. Continued prayers that the procedure was effective. 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.

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

LONG TERM CONCERNS:

Jeanine Tedeschi (Rose Chara's niece), **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.

