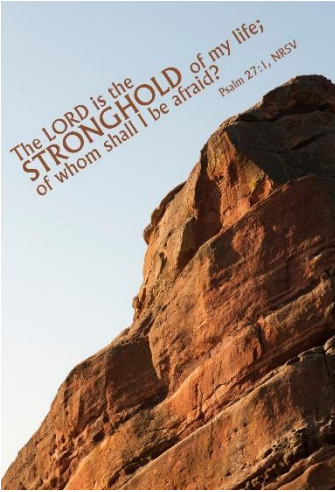


First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM APRIL 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

* indicates when to rise in body or in spirit
(PH denotes The Presbyterian Hymnal
STF denotes Sing the Faith Hymnal)



QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

“Trusted Companion of my journey,
you call me to go through the doors of change.
Turn my wavering heart toward you.
Teach me to trust your guidance.
Convince me of the benefits of change.
Deepen my belief in the possibilities of growth.
Most of all strengthen my love for you.

I open the door of my heart to you.” — Joyce Rupp, Open the Door

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord hears us when we call.
People: Come and be gracious to us, and hear our prayers.
Leader: The Lord has set apart the faithful for himself.
People: Come, let us put our trust in God.
Leader: Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord.
People: Come let us sing God’s praises with shouts of joy!
Leader: The Lord grants peace to our weary souls.
People: Come, let us rest by the quiet waters of God’s grace.
Leader: We will both lie down and sleep in peace.
People: Come, make us lie down in safety.

* HYMN PH #122

“Thine is the Glory”

See Insert

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Risen Christ, we are often troubled by our doubts. But you are not troubled by them. You do not require perfect understanding. Instead, you reveal yourself to us again and again that we might come to know you. Forgive us when our doubts keep us stuck, when fear prevents us from loving all creation as you call us to do. Help us to accept the peace you so graciously offer to us. Have mercy on us when we hoard or hide it, when we fail to offer it to others. Renew us and make us whole that in this world of strife we may be bearers of your peace. In resurrection hope we pray, Amen.

(A Time of Silent Prayer follows)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; we are claimed by God; and that is what we are." (1 John 3:1)

People: We are children of God. We are claimed by God, forgiven our sins, and set free for love. Alleluia, Thanks be to God.

* SUNG RESPONSE OF JOY PH 347 *"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"* vs 1 & 3

*"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
But You alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.*

*In blazing light Your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to You!*

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Redeeming God, as we hear your Word spoken to us, open our eyes to see the risen Christ, open our ears to hear the good news of his salvation for all the world, and open our minds to understand the mysteries of your love. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 27: 1, 4-8

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation-whom shall I fear?

People: **The Lord is the stronghold of my life-of whom shall I be afraid?**

Leader: One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

People: **For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and
set me high upon a rock.**

Leader: Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

People: **at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy,
I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

Leader: Hear my voice when I call Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.

People: **My heart says to you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, I will seek.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN AND BUCKET BRIGADE

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 24:36-48

³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

MESSAGE

“Calming Change”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF CHRIST

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN PH#466

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

See Insert

CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD’S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

*** RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE** *“Now Thank We All Our God”* PH 555 (vs 3)

*All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Dedication Of Offering)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER JOYS and CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ending with the **LORD’S PRAYER** (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

GOING OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST

***HYMN PH #286**

“Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

See Insert

*** BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE**

**We thank our Worship Leader Blake Hoffman
and the Ushers/Greeters this morning.**

Liturgical Resource: [Presbyterian Outlook](#)-liturgy-Rev Ellen Williams Hensle;
charge and benediction Teresa of Avila

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON
Week of April 14, 2024**

- Sun. 4/14 Guest Worship Leader Lisa Gray
 9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer, Faith Formation classes
 9:00 am Worship in the Chapel
 9:45 am Family Choir Practice
 9:45 am Chime Choir
 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary
 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm *Girl Scouts*
 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Youth Group
 Bucket Brigade: Second Sunday loose change
 collection to help fight hunger in our community.
- Mon. 4/15 10:00 am Wired Word
 Newsletter Deadline
- Tues. 4/16 7:00 pm Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting
- Wed. 4/17 7:00 pm Finance and Facility
 8:00 pm Midweek Vespers via Zoom
- Thur. 4/18 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Reader's INK Book Club
 7:00 pm Bell Choir
- Fri. 4/19 1:00 - 3:00 pm Hearts and Hands Craft Group
- Sun. 4/21 9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer, Faith Formation classes
 9:00 am Worship in the Chapel
 9:30 am Family Choir Practice
 9:45 am Chime Choir
 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary
 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Youth Group

*Our service can also be found on our YouTube channel sometime after 3 pm.
Go to: www.YouTube.com and search for: fpcnewtonnj

Our Staff

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Treasurer Jane MacDonald
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Organist Ann Socha
Bell Choir Director Melinda Kline
Choir Director Cate Pasculli
Child Care Heather Woods

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Church Email Address: admin@fpcnewtonnj.org

Church Telephone # 973-383-4420

54 High Street, Newton NJ

Church Web Site Address: www.fpcnewtonnj.org facebook.com/FPCNJ

www.youtube.com (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

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