



First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM MAY 5, 2024

** indicates when to rise in body or in spirit*

*(PH denotes The Presbyterian Hymnal) and
STF denotes Sing the Faith Hymnal)*

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

“Mark it down: God loves you with an unearthly love.
You can’t win it by being winsome. You can’t lose it by being a loser.
But you can be blind enough to resist it.”

— Max Lucado

“I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful rebels to the end;
that the doors of hell are locked on the inside.”

— C. S. Lewis

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in this place, some empty, some filled,
some whole, some broken:

ALL: yearning for the Holy Spirit to fill us.

One: We come, with all these ordinary people, who have shown us the way:

ALL: trusting that God will continue to illumine our hearts.

One: We surround the Table of Grace so we might be fed by the Bread of Life:

**ALL: that graced, we may serve others;
that healed, we may bring hope to the world.**

*** HYMN PH #309** *“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Creator, we seek your blessing, knowing that we have not earned it. In our faults, we seek your blessing. In our sins, we seek your forgiveness. In our weakness, we seek your strength. In our sorrow, we seek your consolation. In our trials, we seek your justice. In our pain, we seek your peace. Hear our prayers, O God, and make our hearts new.

(A Moment of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

***SONG OF JOY** *“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”* *PH 479 vs. 1*

*Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
Glad of heart your carols raise,
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who, like me, should sing your praise?
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the Maker, all your days!*

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

<h3>LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD</h3>

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

O God, since we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth, make us hunger for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;
for God’s steadfast love endures forever.

People: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Leader: Some were sick through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;
they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.

**People: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and the LORD saved them from their distress;**

Leader: God sent out this word and healed them,
and delivered them from destruction.

**All: Let them thank the LORD for this steadfast love,
for God's wonderful works to humankind.
And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Humanity be lifted up, that whoever believes in Christ may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that God gave this only Son, so that everyone who believes in God may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

MESSAGE

“Loving Life”

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Adapted from the Confession of Belhar

We believe that the unity of the church can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; and that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, and convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are, by virtue of our reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment, within the one visible people of God. We believe that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership in this church.

CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*** RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE** *“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”* PH 479 vs. 2

Praise God for the grace and favor

Shown our forebears in distress;

God is still the same forever,

Slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker’s faithfulness!

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

SHARED SONG *“We Come To Your Feast”* See Insert

Choir (vs 1-3) and Congregation (Refrain and Verse 4)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE MEAL TOGETHER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

O Jesus, our beloved, we give you thanks for inviting us to your table and sharing your feast with all. May we know that we have been fed with love and grace, and may we follow you out in the world, ambassadors of your hope and peace. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST

* HYMN STF #2088 *“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”*

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

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We thank our Worship Leader April Fisher,  
and our Communion Servers and Ushers/Greeters this morning.

**Liturgical Resources:**

Prayer of Consecration adapted from the UCC Book of Worship,  
© Rev. Amy Pitton, 2016

## **E-Giving - *It makes giving easy!***

**E-Giving** is a convenient way to support our ministries. Here's how:



*Scan Me*

Scan the QR Code to make a donation through your smart phone. **OR**

Go to the church website, [fpcnewtonnj.org](http://fpcnewtonnj.org) and click on the **E-donate** button and sign up using your email and a password. You can make a one-time donation or sign up for automatic recurring donations.

**More comfortable using a check?** No problem, just drop a check in the mail.

***As always, we thank you for your generosity and support!***

## OUR STAFF

Interim Pastor Heather Morrison-Yaden  
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Organist Ann Socha

Bell Choir Director Melinda Kline

Choir Director Cate Pasculli

Child Care Heather Woods

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### Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Church Email Address: [admin@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Church Telephone # 973-383-4420

54 High Street, Newton NJ

Church Web Site Address: [www.fpcnewtonnj.org](http://www.fpcnewtonnj.org)

[facebook.com/FPCNJ](https://facebook.com/FPCNJ)

[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON  
Week of May 5, 2024**

- Sun. 5/5    **Communion**  
9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer  
9:00 am Faith Formation Classes  
9:00 am Worship in the Chapel  
9:30 am Family Choir Practice  
9:45 am Chime Choir Practice  
10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Youth Group - Pizza!
- Mon. 5/6    **10:00 am Wired Word**
- Tue. 5/7    **7:00 pm Hospice Memorial Service**
- Wed. 5/8    **7:00 pm Finance and Facilities Team Meeting**  
**8:00 pm Midweek Vespers via Zoom**
- Thur. 5/9    **10:00 am FPCN serves at Manna House**  
**7:00 pm Bell Choir Practice**
- Fri. 5/10    **1:00 - 3:00 pm Hearts and Hands Craft Group**
- Sun. 5/12    **Mother's Day**  
9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer  
**No** Faith Formation Classes  
9:00 am Worship in the Chapel  
9:45 am Family Choir Practice  
10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary  
**No** Youth Group

\*Our service can also be found on our YouTube channel sometime after 3 pm.  
Go to: [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search for: fpcnewtonnj