

First Presbyterian Church

Hackettstown, NJ



March 31, 2024

**Vision Statement of
First Presbyterian Church**

Strengthening families;
Sowing friendships;
Serving community;
In the name of Jesus Christ

PRELUDE Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

INTROIT

My Lord Arose

Senior Choir

Torey Ravo, soloist

My Lord arose. My Lord arose from the dead. He lives today and all is well. And with joyful hearts we say hallelujah for the day.

My Lord Jesus Christ arose.

Death has lost its hold on me, the grave has no more sting. The Lord has given life to me and that is why I sing. I sing because I know I serve a risen Savior, I serve a risen King!

My Lord arose. My Lord arose from the dead. He lives today and all is well. And with joyful hearts we say hallelujah for the day.

My Lord Jesus Christ arose.

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Yesterday we thought death had won.

Yesterday we thought all was lost.

Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen today.

***HYMN**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

232

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!

who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!

Our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

UNISON CONFESSION

The stone is rolled away!

We assume it is a mistake.

The angels say, "He is not here!"

We assume their news is fake.

The women tell the story,

but we do not want to hear it.

Peter runs to the tomb,

but we do not understand.

Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb
is nothing more than a prank.

**Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths
and still holding tight to death.**

Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope
when you are alive and well in the world.

Teach us to see what you see.

Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The angels tell the women, "Remember what Jesus told you." So, church, remember this: You are seen. You are forgiven. You are held in God's grace. All of this is true. Grace and mercy abound for you. Remember this. Amen!

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen, Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 24:1-5

ANTHEM

Crown Him With Many Crowns
FPCH Ringers

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 24: 6-12

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes Cook

HYMN *Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers* **231**

Christ has risen while earth slumbers; Christ has risen where hope died, as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied. Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer; let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We may weep through the longest nights. We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers. We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more. But today, we are a people of hope. We believe in new beginnings. We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death. We believe that Jesus abides among us, healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world. We believe that a tomb could not hold him. We believe that the sun does rise. We believe that Peter was there with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed. We believe that the story is not over yet, for God is among us. Today we are a people of hope.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Because He is Risen Medley* Senior Choir
The savior of the world left His glory above to die for the millions who needed him. For the king and the beggar, the great and the small, the mighty, the lowly He loves them all. And even I, even I, may walk with the King though unworthy. For he said whosoever, whosoever may come, and even I, and even I.

I live, I live because He is risen. I live, I live to worship Him. Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus, because you're alive, I live.

For all things were changed when He found me, a new day broke through all around me. For I met the master, now I belong to Him. Yes all things were changed when He found me, a new day broke through all around me: for I met the master; now I belong to Him. I met the Master. Now I belong to Him.

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***Hymn** *The Day of Resurrection!* **233**

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE**

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore
His Sacred name.

Postlude *Christ is Alive!*



Serving Our Congregation Today

Preaching: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leader: Bill Cors

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Video: Jean Zetterberg

Greeting: Bev Saunders & Ryan Van Orden

Welcome to all who have come to worship with us today! We pray that you might find the Spirit alive here on Resurrection Sunday. Children are invited to worship with their parents. We have activity bags to share with each child.

Are you looking for a church home? We would be glad to share with you about the ministry and how you might get connected. Please fill out a card and drop it in the offering plate and we would be happy to follow up with you!

SPECIAL THANK YOUS

Thank you to the deacons who purchased all the flowers for our cross this morning. Thank you to all who helped make our sanctuary beautiful on this Resurrection Sunday!

Today we dedicate a piece of stained glass art that was created by our member Geof Gohlich. He used pieces of the stained glass window from our sanctuary that was destroyed by a tree in 2020. We are grateful for his work of love for our congregation.

STEW'S CLUE

Kids (and adults!) Can you find our stewardship mascot, Stewie who is hiding somewhere in the sanctuary? The "Stew's clue" for this week is tulips.

FYI-INFORMATION

3/24/2024	In Person Attendance	95
	Virtual Attendance	89
	Weekly Offering	\$4,345.87

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

Monday	9:00 am-12:00 pm
Tues - Fri	9:00 am-12:00 pm
Monday-Friday	Spring Break

March 31 - April 6, 2024

Office closed Monday
Church office open
Heaven Sent Nursery School

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - March 31 - April 6, 2024

Monday	10:30-11:30 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	AA Step by Step Boy Scout Troop 158 Girls Troop 143 Scouting BSA
Tuesday	7:30-9:00 pm	NA Change or Die
Wednesday	7:30-9:00 pm	Stone Soup Symphony
Thursday	10:30-11:30 am	AA New Beginnings
Friday	Storage use only 7:00-9:00 pm 7:30 pm	Colonial Musketeers Colonial Musketeers Sr. GA Meeting



FOR PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

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