



**Siloam Hope First
Presbyterian Church**

April is Autism Acceptance Month



Founded as the First NJ Christian Congregation in 1664



WELCOME. LOVE. SERVICE. COMMUNITY.

Reverend Dr. Wanda M. Lundy, *Pastor*
Jacob Paduano, *Music Director*

14-42 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201
(908) 354-0016 | **www.shfpchurch.org**

Sunday Worship Service | 23 April 2023 | 3rd Sunday of Easter

“THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND BLOOD AND MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD (John 1:14).”



PRELUDE | JACOB PADUANO

CALL TO WORSHIP | ELDER PAMELA ROBINSON SMITH

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS | ELDER WANDA SIZEMORE- MCRAE

OPENING HYMN | SHFPC MUSIC MINISTRY: *I've Got Favor*

VIRTUAL PASSING OF PEACE | LEAD BY FAN COMMITTEE

LIVING OUR MISSION | AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

- POETRY | ELDER SABRINA DAVIS
- OUR STORY | MRS. TANISHA WATERS-WORTHAM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION | ALL

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | PASTOR WANDA LUNDY

GLORIA PATRI | ALL

SCRIPTURE READING 1 | ECCLESIASTES 3: 9-14

HYMN OF PREPARATION | SHFPC MUSIC MINISTRY: *Believe For It*

SCRIPTURE READING 2 | EPHESIANS 2: 4-10

THE MESSAGE | ELDER PAM

PASTORAL AND LORD'S PRAYER | PASTOR LUNDY

MUSICAL SELECTION | SHFPC MUSIC MINISTRY: *Jireh*

OFFERING OF GIFTS TO GOD AND DOXOLOGY | ALL

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION | PASTOR LUNDY

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have traveled from the horror of Good Friday to the joy and celebration of Easter.

We will give thanks to you forever, O God.

The Lord has turned our sorrow and sadness into dancing and joy.

We will give thanks to you forever, O God.

We come now to worship the one who transforms fear into resurrection love.

We will give thanks to you forever, O God. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Resurrected One, you have proven that nothing can defeat the power of your love.

And yet we continue to nurture our doubts.

Time and again, you demonstrate your ability to transform despair,
in our human story into miraculous hope in your divine narrative.

And yet we make ourselves at home in the pit of desolation.

Over and over, you patiently plant your seeds of joy.

And yet we continue to scoff at the puny seedlings that sprout.

As if we've never witnessed the tenacity of your regenerative Spirit.

God, call us again to follow you.

Show us again the miracle of your abundance. Lead us again from the depths of our fear.

into the Easter light of your never-failing love. Amen. *Silent Confession*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear this song of praise that God's people have been singing for thousands of years: "O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit." God heals all wounds, rescues all sinners, and forgives all debts. Join the song of praise! **Amen.**

POETRY MOMENT

Sensitive Senses (Victorious One)

"Senses are heightened so,
Skin is a canvas of feeling's flow,
With textures that grate and sounds that screech,
A world that assaults, yet they still beseech.
The rustle of paper, a crunching leaf,
A scraping of metal, a grinding of teeth,
Each sends shivers down my fragile spine,
A sensation too much, a mountain to climb.
I seek refuge in soft clothes,
A comforting hug, a touch of the nose,
I have senses so raw, my nerves stand on edge,
The world full of spikes, a sensory dredge.
Somehow, I find a way,
To navigate through the chaos,
I'll find beauty in the humble things,
And feel the warmth that a gentle touch can bring.
In my sensitivity, there finds a gift,
A connection to the world that is swift,
A depth of feeling that few can know,
A world full of wonder, a vibrant glow.
So let us honor those who feel so much,
Whose senses are delicate to the touch,
They show us a world that's rich and true,
A world full of beauty, a world that's new."



DID YOU KNOW? "New Jersey now has the third highest rate of autism in the nation: 1 in 34 children, or 2.9% of 8-year-old children (<https://autismnj.org/>)."

My Non-Verbal Learning Disorder (D.L. Lewis)

"I see the world in a different way,
A gift that comes with challenges each day.
My mind is wired in a unique fashion,
But my pen and paper are my greatest passion.
Words flow freely from my mind,
In ways that are hard to define.
They dance and twirl, they sing and rhyme,
A kaleidoscope of colors, a symphony of time.
My writing is my voice, my soul's expression,
A way to communicate without hesitation.
It's a bridge that connects me to the world,
A gift that helps me to be heard.
Though my struggles may be many,
My writing is a place where I feel plenty.
A space where I can be myself,
And share my thoughts without anyone else.
So, I'll keep writing, day by day,
And let my words light up the way.
For in my writing, I find my strength,
And the power to go to any length.
I have a non-verbal learning disorder,
A condition that can make life harder.
But when I write, I feel free,
And my words help me to be me.
My writing is a gift that I treasure,
A source of joy that brings me pleasure.
It's a way to express what's in my heart,
And share my thoughts in a world apart.
In a world that often misinterprets,
My writing is a way to connect.
It gives me a voice that's loud and clear,
And helps me to overcome my fear.
For though my words may stumble and falter,
They are the key to my soul's altar.
A place where I can be myself,
And share my thoughts with anyone else.
So, I'll keep writing, day by day,
And let my words lead the way.
For in my writing, I find my voice,
And the strength to make my own choice."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Any dates for the Church Calendar should be given to Wanda Sizemore-McRae ASAP.

- Due to the number of members with underlying health issues that attend in-person worship, the Session reviewed **COVID-19 protocol** and voted to:
 - Request everyone **signs contact list** upon church entry
 - Require non-vaccinated people to properly **wear facemasks**

These requests are being made for the safety of all who are in attendance.

- **2023 Per Capita** is \$45 per member. This and all donations can be submitted **during worship**; to **SHFP Church, P. O. Box 442, Roselle, NJ 07203**; or with *Zelle* using **shfpchurch64@gmail.com**.
- *On Mondays, Prayer Service is 6:30pm and Bible Study is 7pm on Zoom.*

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.

DOXOLOGY

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



SCRIPTURE 1: ECCLESIASTES 3: 9-14

- ⁹ What do workers gain from their toil?
¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race.
¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.
¹³ That each of them may eat and drink and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.
¹⁴ I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.

SCRIPTURE 2: EPHESIANS 2: 4-10

- ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.
⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,
⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.
⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—
⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.
¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.