

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



November 26, 2023

Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church

Strengthening families;

Sowing friendships;

Serving community;

In the name of Jesus Christ

PRELUDE *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Thom Shuman

We come, for God gathers us here,
with that community called faith:

**where the hungry are served first,
where the thirsty drink life's water.**

We come, for God welcomes us here
into that home called grace:

**where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;
where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.**

We come, for God reunites us here,
sisters and brothers in that family called love:

**where the imprisoned model justice,
where the sick are cradled in God's peace.**

***HYMN**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

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All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

ANTHEM

Rejoice in the Lord, Always
Joyful Noise Bell Choir

arr. Ravo

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Gloria, Gloria

583

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we confess we have given idols power over us, the idols of power and wealth, fame and security. We confess we have fallen into the ways of this world and have forgotten our kin-dom in Christ. We have lost sight of the reign of God here on earth, and instead have allowed the idols of the world to rule over us. Forgive us. Call us into Your reign, to declare You the One who has power over us because Your power is love. Call us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to work for justice, show mercy, and love one another in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus came to us not to reign as a king over us, but to serve us, and to show us the way of God is the way of love. Jesus said the first would be last and the last would be first. Jesus called us to become humble and serve one another, and that the most important commandment was to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This is the way of our Sovereign. Go, knowing you are forgiven, and love and serve one another, especially our neighbors in need, as Christ serves us. **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 LESSONS

Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

HYMNJesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun***265**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its
successive journeys run; his kingdom stretch from
shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises
throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet
perfume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on his
love with sweetest song, and infant voices
shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoners
leap to loose their chains; the weary find
eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring honors
peculiar to our King; angels descend with
songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITHBrief statement of faith, PCUSA*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

***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**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***CLOSING HYMN**

Lead On, O King Eternal!

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Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;
hence-forth in fields of conquest your tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong,
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears;
your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light.
The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE** Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

POSTLUDE

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preaching: Rev. Erin Cook-Hayes

Worship Leader: Jennifer Aquino

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Video: Geof Gohlich

Greeting: Bruce & Ellen Bergman

The cards this week on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:

Sandy Lindstedt & John O'Brien

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

Are you interested in joining our church as a member? We would love to talk more with you about our ministry here. Feel free to feel out a visitors card and hand it to one of our ushers or Pastor Erin and we will make sure to reach out to you!

STEW'S CLUE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hiding in the Thanksgiving cornucopia on the Communion table. This week's clue to where Stewie is hiding is **corn**. Hope you find him!

HELP US GET THE SANCTUARY READY FOR CHRISTMAS

We will be decorating the church with our Christmas decorations on Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to join in. Pizza and decorations will be provided! Please see Diane Hull to let her know if you'll be able to help, or if you have any questions.

CURRENT EVENTS

TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning, our special music is provided by our Joyful Noise Bell Choir who will be playing an arrangement of a familiar children's Sunday School song: "Rejoice in the Lord Always". These young musicians range in age from kindergartners through our Middle School "helpers". Next Sunday, our Senior Choir will be providing the anthem.

DEACON'S LITTLE PANTRY NEWS

We are so grateful to Heaven Sent Nursery School angels and their families, for their generosity in donating to our Little Pantry as they learned about Thanksgiving.

As the weather turns colder, we find our Little Pantry being used more than ever. If you are doing your shopping for the week, and wonder what items our Free Little Pantry is getting low on, we have a suggestion for you. At the moment, we are currently in need of personal care items. If you are in position to help, feel free to put them into the pantry yourself, or if you prefer, you can bring donations to the church and members of the Deacons will take them to the chapel for you. And as always, thanks for your thoughtfulness.

HYMN FEST!

Tonight at 7 pm, our Senior Choir will be joining forces with the choir from Panther Valley Ecumenical Church, and Gethsemane Lutheran Church (409 East Baldwin St. Hackettstown) in the Hymn Fest. The three choirs will combine for two anthems and a choral benediction, and in between, the entire congregation will be lifting our voices as we sing familiar hymns. It is a glorious and uplifting event, and we hope you'll join us as part of the congregation. There is no charge for this program, but donations of food for our Little Pantry are being collected.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Join us on Saturday, **December 2nd** at 5:00pm in the Chapel for our annual Christmas Dinner. Please sign up and let us know what you will bring to share (either a side dish or dessert).

UPCOMING EVENTS

MESSIAH SING!

The Knowlton Presbyterian Church is having a free concert, Messiah Sing! On Sunday, **December 3rd** at 4:00pm and will be performing Handel's Messiah and you are invited to sing along if you would like or just sit back and enjoy. Refreshments will be provided.

STONE SOUP SYMPHONY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual Christmas concert presented by the Stone Soup Symphony Orchestra will be held in our sanctuary on Saturday, **December 9** at 3:00 pm.

DECEMBER SECOND SUNDAY

On **December 10 from 11:30-1:00 pm**, our Second Sunday participants will be making Christmas ornaments with Mrs. Roguso. To help us with planning and supplies, please pre-register by signing up on the registration sheet in the front of the church.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Join us on **December 16th** at 11:00 am as we have a ceremony in the chapel and then place wreaths on the graves in our Old Presbyterian Burial Ground of those who served in the military.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, and so we'll have 2 services: our regular 10:00 am service, and our 7:30 pm **Christmas Eve Candlelight** service. If you'd like to join with the choir for either or both services, we'll be glad to have you! Just speak with Lorinda for more information about either of these opportunities to lift your voice in song!

BLUE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season can bring up grief and loss. If you feel overwhelmed by it all and need a space to breathe then we invite you to attend the Blue Christmas Service at The Ecumenical Church in Hackettstown on Wednesday, **December 20th** from 6:30 - 8:30pm. We pray you may experience rest for your weary soul.

FYI-INFORMATION

11/19/2023	In Person Attendance	90
	Virtual Attendance	85
	Offering	\$2,132.00

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

Nov. 26-Dec. 2, 2023

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	7:00 pm	Hymn Fest @ Gethsemane
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Church office open
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Heaven Sent Nursery School
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Decorate the Church

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - Nov. 26-Dec. 2, 2023

Monday	10:30-11:30 am	AA Step by Step
	7:00-9:00 pm	Jazz Band
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 158
	7:00 pm	Girls Troop 143 BSA
Tuesday	7:30pm-9 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	Colonial Musketeers



FOR PASTORAL CARE,

Pastor Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook Cell:908-963-8341

Email: revehayes@gmail.com

Call the church office at: 908-852-4011

Church email: fpchnj@gmail.com

Church Website: www.fpchackettstown.org