

May 21st, 2023
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Ascension of Jesus Christ
1st Presbyterian of Rockaway
Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 10:30 AM EST)
Phone in: (mobile or home phone) +1 929 205 6099 US
Meeting ID: 468 322 0487 Passcode: FPCR2021
One tap mobile: +16465588656,,4683220487#,,,,*67022253#

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4683220487?pwd=OHBUb2V4RmJVMGF2U3VEVEFLMWNjUT09>

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners”

Arr. Gail Smith

Please use this time to silently prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

*The Christ Candle will be lit by the **Pulpit Assistant** during the Prelude.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come to worship God, the living God,

Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.

All glory to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

As we prepare to worship today, we ask that you will stretch our imaginations to sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension. Help us perceive how Jesus' presence in heaven can give us confidence in our praying and hope for the future. Through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

***HYMN 265**

JESUS SHALL REIGN WHERE'ER THE SUN

1 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.

2 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.

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

4 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.

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

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

While we claim to celebrate the ascension of our Lord, the way we live proclaims our lack of faith in his power to deal with the world. Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord,

We have not lived our lives as kingdom people. We place our crowns on hopelessness, fear, and selfishness. We are ruled by our schedules and our need for control. We make kings of the things we acquire and queens of our immediate desires. We forget that your kingdom draws near to us on earth, as it is in heaven. Forgive us, we pray. *Silent Prayer*. Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The God of our Lord Jesus Christ blesses us and calls us “kingdom people.”

In the name of the reigning Christ, we are forgiven!

In the name of the reigning Christ, we are forgiven!! Glory to God! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI (581)

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.

CHILDREN’S TIME

Rev. Ryon Herin

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 47

¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. ² For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. ³ He subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet. ⁴ He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

⁵ God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. ⁷ For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

⁸ God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. ⁹ The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

ANTHEM

“Soon and Very Soon”

By Andrae Crouch, Arr. Jack Schrader
FPCR Choir, Krista Sweer Directing

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ Then 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.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

SERMON

“Jesus Ascending: May We Clap for Joy”

Rev. Ryon Herin

*HYMN 277

HAIL THEE, FESTIVAL DAY! (Verse 1 and 2: Ascension)

Refrain: Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;

Day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.

[Ascension] 1 He who was nailed to the cross is ruler and Lord of all people.

All things created on earth sing to the glory of God. [Refrain]

[Ascension] 2 Daily the loveliness grows adorned with the glory of blossom; heaven its gates now unbars, flinging its increase of light. [Refrain]

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Based on Ephesians 2

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection and reign of Christ:

By his mighty power God raised from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ and seated him at his right hand in heaven; far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the age to come. God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything everywhere and always. Amen.

**MINUTE FOR MISSION (Pentecost Special Offering)
OFFERTORY**

“Magnificat in G Major Op. 41, No. 2”

**Dan Cassidy
Alexandre Guilmant**

606 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, to you be glory and praise forever. From the darkness of death you have raised your Christ to the right hand of your majesty on high. The pioneer of our faith, his passion accomplished, has opened for us the way to heaven and sends on us the promised Spirit. May we be ready to follow the Way and so be brought to the glory of his presence where songs of triumph forever sound: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER

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

***HYMN 363**

REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING!

- 1 Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
- 2 Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love; when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
- 3 His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven; the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
- 4 Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come and gather all the saints to their eternal home. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”

George Job Elvey

Please remain seated and give thanks to God. Join us for coffee hour!

GIVING TO 1ST PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY

Go to our web page (fpcrockaway.org), go to the Stewardship Giving page, scroll down to “donate” and give electronically <http://www.fpcrockaway.org/stewardshipgiving.html>

or mail to:

1st Presbyterian of Rockaway
35 Church St., Rockaway, NJ 07866

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Food Closet Needs Your Assistance

There is an increase in families asking for assistance – with the increase in food prices people who were just making it can't anymore. Please consider donating a couple of items each week – needed most – cereal, peanut butter, tuna, soup, pasta and pasta sauce, canned vegetables, macaroni and cheese, crackers, coffee and tea. Any non-perishable food welcome.

Thank You!
Linda Kirby



**Congregational Luncheon
Today - May 21, 2023
Following Worship
Fellowship Hall**



**The Church has a new church-wide Wi-Fi and Password
Wi-Fi: FPC Rockaway
Password: founded1758**



Community Cup News

Community Cup is a cozy welcoming setting where you can stop by for a cup of coffee or tea and continue on your way or stay and relax with neighbors and friends.

Our next community Cup will be **Friday, May 26 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm.**

Hope to see you there!!



SHOP RITE GIFT CARDS!!

When you purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards from our church the church receives 5% of the cost of the gift card. (No extra cost to you). We have been selling Shop Rite Gift Cards at the church for many years. The profits we receive have been used to pay for programs/projects in our church. We all need to eat! It is a 'win win' for our church. Contact Pat Budis if you have any questions 201-230-2286. You can pick them up from Pat or she will even deliver! Another easy way to help support our church!



Vacation Bible School
June 26th - 30th
9 AM - 12 Noon
Ages 5 - 7th grade
First Presbyterian Church Rockaway
(973) 627-1059
office@fpcrockaway.org

Please join us for VBS this year. It is a fun filled event for all!

We need both adult and youth volunteers for VBS. Please contact either Barbie Restaino or Karen Basile if you want to volunteer. There are many different areas you can help with! Registration forms for children who want to attend VBS are available now on our facebook page!

Would you be able to donate any of the supplies listed below for Vacation Bible School? (I will add to this list weekly!)

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Model Magic | Scotch Tape | Glue Sticks |
| Empty Cereal boxes | ¼" to ½" Ribbon | Colorful Duck Tape |
| Crayola Markers | Masking Tape | Aluminum Foil |
| Large pieces of Cardboard | | |

Summer Responding to Climate Change Study

As a Matthew 25 Congregation, we are continuing to learn about and become more informed on the numerous ways in which the current events of our world cause us to respond in action as Christians. As you will remember, last year we did an Anti-Racism Study, exploring the ways we as Christians can be informed, respond to, and claim responsibility for how prejudice and discrimination have and continue to be an explicit part of our Nation and World. This Year, we will similarly look at Climate Change, how human action has negatively affected our environment, how we can become informed in a hopeful way, and how we can practically respond as a congregation and Christ's Church. **I invite you to join me in this study and endeavor beginning in June, with our Monday and Tuesday Bible Studies.** I invite our Sunday School adult participants to join as well as Sunday School takes a break in the summer months (Last Sunday School will be June 18). Below are the dates and times as well as book info. Send Pastor Ryon an email (ryon@fpcrockaway.org) to register for a group and more info!

Responding to Climate Change published by Christian Century.

(Available by email as a PDF to read on your electronic device or to print)

<https://www.christiancentury.org/free-guide-climate-change>

Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World by Katherine Hayhoe (Buy on Amazon or other distributors)

Mondays at 7 PM (June 12 & 19: July 3, 10, 24 & 31: August 7 & 14)

Location TBD (Let Pastor Ryon know if you would like to host)

Tuesday at 10:00 AM (June 13 & 20: July 11 & 25: August 1, 8, 15 & 22)

Via Zoom

Calendar

Sunday, May 21 – Open Close – Laurie Morse

9:15 am – Adult Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service – sanctuary, via zoom and Facebook

11:45 am – Congregational Luncheon - FH

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm – MORE – FH

Monday – May 22 – Office Closed

7:00 pm – Bible Study – Manse

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Girl Scout Leaders & Daughters Ice Cream Social - FH

Tuesday – May 23 –

9:30 am – Bible Study - Zoom

9:00 am – 12:30 pm – Office Open

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm – AA Meeting – BK Room

7:30 – 9:30 pm – FA Meeting – Scout Room

Wednesday – May 24 –

9:00 am – 12:30 pm – Office Open

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Boys Scout Meetings – FH, Scout Room & Canteen

Thursday, May 25 –

9:00 am – 12:30 pm – Office Open

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm – AA Meeting – BK Room

6:20 pm – 7:30 pm – Bells Rehearsal

Friday, May 26 – Office Closed

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Community Cup - FH

Saturday, May 27 –

8:00 am – 11:00 am – Rise Up Community Breakfast - FH

Sunday, May 28 – Open & Close – Kathy Siegrist

9:15 – 10:15 am – Adult and Children's Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service – sanctuary, via zoom and Facebook

2:00 – 4:00 pm – MORE – FH

Elders

Rich Basile – Finance Comm. Chair & Property Comm

Lillian Blair – Church Treasurer & Finance Committee

Debbie Harrington – Outreach Committee

Carol Lutcza – Personnel Comm. Chair & CE Comm.

Joe Martinoni – Worship Comm Chair & Personnel Comm.

Laurie Morse – Outreach Committee

Barbie Restaino – Worship Committee & CE Comm.

Kathy Shuey – Congregational Care Committee

Kathy Siegrist – Christian Ed. Committee & Newsletter

Donna VanDuyne – CE Committee Chair, Nominating Committee Chair

Deacons

Lisa DiBonaventura

Debbie Garris

Alison Molinaro

Vicki Philhower

Linda Sunderman

Linda Urwin

Barbara Weinberg

First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway

35 Church Street

Rockaway, NJ 067866-3027

(973) 627-1059

Reverend Ryon Herin

ryon@fpcrockaway.org

E-mail – office@fpcrockaway.org

Website – www.fpcrockaway.org

Sunday School 9:15 – 10:15 am

Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30 am

Office Hours 9:00 am – 12:30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday

Krista Sweer, Music Minister

Robert Nichols, Cemetery Sexton

Karen Basile, Clerk of Session

Presbyterian Church Co-op Nursery School (PCCNS)

973-586-3665

Cheryl Piscopo – Director

E-mail – directorpccns@gmail.com