

September 3rd, 2023

1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Rockaway

Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 9:30 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**                    **“We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name”**                    **Bryan Jeffery Leech**

*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 come to worship this morning from different places.

**O God, do not be far from us.**

We come to worship this morning for different reasons.

**O God, do not be far from us.**

We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.

**O God, do not be far from us.**

We hear Jesus’ words with different ears.

**O God, do not be far from us.**

“Deny yourselves.”

**O God, do not be far from us.**

“Take up your cross.”

**O God, do not be far from us.**

“Follow me.”

**O God, we thank you for drawing near to us  
in this place, in our lives. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Holy Jesus,**

**You call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not.**

**You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us.**

**We want the easy way, but You have given us the hard path. Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You, to allow ourselves at times to stumble, to live into the hard way so that we might fully experience Your love, grace, and peace in this world, by becoming a people full of love and grace and forgiving others. In Your name we pray. Amen.**

## **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **\*HYMN 264                    AT THE NAME OF JESUS**

1 At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him King of glory now;  
'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord, who from the beginning  
was the mighty Word.

2 Humbled for a season to receive a name from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last, brought it back victorious,  
when from death he passed.

3 Bore it up triumphant, with its human light, through all ranks of creatures, to the central  
height, to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast, filled it with the glory  
of that perfect rest.

4 Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again, with his Father's glory o'er the earth to  
reign; for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow, and our hearts confess him  
King of glory now.

## **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

Jesus Christ overcame evil with good so that all people might be saved from sin. Let us then confess our need for grace, confident of God's forgiveness.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of mercy,

**We confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds not on divine things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation. Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray. *Silent Prayer. Amen.***

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Jesus took up his cross for our salvation. In return for our old life of sin, he promises a new life of grace. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

## **\*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**

### **Romans 12:9-21**

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.

<sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**"The Highest Praise"**

**Jim Glass, Soloist**

**By Chris Waters and Randolph Cox**

### **Matthew 16:21-28**

<sup>21</sup> From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

<sup>27</sup> "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

## **SERMON**

**"In Saving and Losing Our Lives: Words to Live By"**

**Rev. Ryon Herin**

**\*HYMN 727 WILL YOU LET ME BE YOUR SERVANT**

1 Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.  
2 We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.  
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
4 I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.  
5 When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony. **Repeat Stanza 1**

**\*PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY**

**"The Wonder of It All"**

**George Beverly Shea**

**\*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**

**Almighty God,  
Receive these gifts that we offer with grateful hearts and use us  
for your ministry in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 718 TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, THE SAVIOR SAID**

1 Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;  
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.  
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.  
3 Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and let your foolish pride be still;  
the Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.  
4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and calmly every danger brave:  
it guides you to abundant life and leads to victory o'er the grave.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**"Proclaim the Glory of the Lord"**

**Arr. Nathan DiGesare**

*Please remain seated and give thanks to God. Join us for lemonade and fellowship after!*

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**GIVING TO 1ST PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY**

Go to our web page (fpcrockaway.org), go to the Online Giving page, select the “donate” button and give electronically <http://www.fpcrockaway.org/giving>

or mail to:

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

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Worship Hour changes to 10:30 am on September 10  
Sunday School for children and adults begins on September 10 at 9:15 am

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**Save the date! September 10**

Reason: Homecoming luncheon!

Please join us in Fellowship Hall after the service.

We are asking for sides and desserts. If you can help with either, please bring it along.

Drop off in the kitchen before the service.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Linda Urwin – Congregational Care Chairman

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**Our Cemetery Sexton, Rob Nichols, is retiring on September 15, 2023**

Rob has been our Cemetery Sexton for 20 years!

If you would like to make a donation for a gift for Rob, please see Pat Budis or a member of the Office Staff. Thank you for your generosity.

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**Bible Study Break**

Our Bible Studies will be taking a break for the next two weeks and will resume the week of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Tuesday Study will resume its chapter-by-chapter journey through the Book of Acts. Monday Study will start a new endeavor, studying Revelation with the help of Eugene Peterson’s Book, *Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination*. The book will be helpful but not required. Contact Pastor Ryon if you need help ordering the book.

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**New Membership Classes**

If you are interested in becoming a new member, we will be hosting new membership classes in a few months. The class usually runs around a month and meets before church or at a time during the week agreeable for all interested. In this class, you will learn about our church history, what it means to be Presbyterian, and how our church is involved in our community. Contact Pastor Ryon if you are interested ([ryon@fpcrockaway.org](mailto:ryon@fpcrockaway.org))

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**Stewardship Committee Members Needed**

It is that time of year again that we need to establish a Stewardship Committee. We need people who are willing to serve on the committee that will begin meeting in September and complete their responsibilities by the end of November. This committee works with the pastor to establish the theme for our Stewardship Campaign, prepare and mail Pledge Cards, and contact members concerning pledging.

Please Contact Rev. Ryon if you are interested in serving on this committee.

### **Quarter Tube!**

The quarters that are put in the Quarter Tube in the front of the sanctuary are used for the Mission work of our church. Simply place your quarters in the tube so we can further our mission work.

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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

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### **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.

### **Calendar**

Sunday, September 3 - Open Close – Rich Basile

9:30 am – Worship Service – sanctuary, via zoom and Facebook

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm – MORE – FH

Monday – September 4 – Office Closed

Tuesday – September 5

9:00 am – 12:30 pm – Office Open

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

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

Wednesday – September 6 –

9:00 am – 12:30 pm – Office Open

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm – Boy Scouts – FH

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm – Venturing Scouts - Canteen

Thursday, September 7 –

9:00 am – 12:30 pm – Office Open

9:30 am – 11:30 am = Baroque Quartet Practice - Sanctuary

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

6:20 pm – 7:30 pm – Bells Rehearsal

Friday, September 8 – Office Closed

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Community Cup

Saturday, September 9 –

Sunday, September 10 – Open & Close - Joe Martinoni

9:15 am – 10:15 am – Adult and Childrens Sunday School, Confirmation Class

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

11:30 pm – Homecoming Luncheon - FH

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

Dan Cassidy – Outreach Committee Chair  
Pat Budis – Property/Cemetery Committee Chair  
Linda Urwin – Congregational 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](mailto:ryon@fpcrockaway.org)

E-mail – [office@fpcrockaway.org](mailto:office@fpcrockaway.org)

Website – [www.fpcrockaway.org](http://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](mailto:directorpccns@gmail.com)