

***FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***



**24th Sunday after Pentecost  
Veteran's Day Honored  
Sunday, November 12, 2023  
10:00 A.M.**

119 WEST COMMERCE STREET  
BRIDGETON, NJ 08302  
PHONE (856)455-0809 [WWW.FPCBRIDGETON.ORG](http://WWW.FPCBRIDGETON.ORG)

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**PRELUDE**      “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”      arr. David Lowe

**WELCOME**      Liturgist

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**CALL TO WORSHIP**      Liturgist

Together, we choose to serve God,  
which means:

We choose love.

**We choose hope.**

We choose peace.

**We choose kindness.**

We choose welcome.

**We choose justice.**

We choose to serve God.

**Let us worship.**

\*HYMN      #467      “How Great Thou Art”

**CALL TO CONFESSION**      Rev. Norlita

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**      Rev. Norlita

Everlasting God, we say we want to see you,  
we say we want to know you, we say we want to serve  
you, but we also do not want to put in the work.

We do not want to prepare for your coming  
by working for your kin-dom on this earth.

We do not keep alert for signs of you among us, so we  
schedule you in for an hour or so on Sundays. Forgive  
us. Inspire us to put our faith to action. Surprise us with  
your presence so we might learn to always be ready for  
you to arrive. (*Silent Reflection*)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**      Rev. Norlita

All who seek God will rejoice and be glad.

We proclaim that God is great because of this good news:  
**We are forgiven! Be at peace. Thanks be to God!**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

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

**A TIME TO BE YOUNG**

**ANTHEM** “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed & Burning”  
African American Spiritual

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** Liturgist

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Liturgist

Psalm 78:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.  
<sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,  
<sup>3</sup> **things that we have heard and known,  
that our ancestors have told us.**  
<sup>4</sup> **We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation**  
the glorious deeds of the LORD and his might  
and the wonders that he has done.  
<sup>5</sup> He established a decree in Jacob  
and appointed a law in Israel,  
**which he commanded our ancestors**  
to teach to their children,  
<sup>6</sup> that the next generation might know them,  
**the children yet unborn,  
and rise up and tell them to their children,**  
<sup>7</sup> **so that they should set their hope in God,**  
and not forget the works of God,  
**but keep his commandments;**

## **EPISTLE READING**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Liturgist

## **GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 25:1-13

Rev. Norlita

## **SERMON**

“Each Generation”

Rev. Norlita

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #564 “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”**

### **HONORING OUR VETERANS**

**\*HYMN #562 “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”**

### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY “Verset” L.J.A. Lefébure-Wély**

### **\*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**

## **THE 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 #447 "Lead on, O King Eternal"**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BENEDICTION**

**"May the Lord watch over between me and thee, while  
absent, one from the other." (*Mizpah Benediction*)**

**POSTLUDE "March" G.F. Handel/arr. T. Birchwood**

## **Serving:**

**LITURGIST- Debbi B-G**

**USHERS-Team 2- John A., Bruce C. & Ken F.**

**COUNTERS-Team 2- Marion C. & Heather N.**

**FLOWERS- Anne S.**

**FELLOWSHIP - Rev. Norlita K.**

# A SOLDIER'S THOUGHTS

(Adapted Poem of Lela Wiles, by Rev. Kaul, to be inclusive)

I have a lump in my throat, and tears brim my eyes. My buddy is gone, I saw the fall, and I heard the cries. You'll never know how I felt, as I saw my buddy lying there. On my buddy's face, there was a smile, on the lips, a prayer.

My buddy told me just this morning, before we landed here, about home and friends, of memories, sweet and dear. My buddy's parents would read the Bible, and the family, knelt in prayer. Tears filled my buddy's eyes while saying, "I know though I'm not there, they kneel together, each night in humble prayer.

When I go into battle, I see them kneeling there, praying much for me, so there's no need to fear.

Of course, it may not be the plan of a loving God on high, that I return, but if it be God's will, that I should die, there is no fear deep down in my heart. God knows what's best for me.

I know I'm ready. I want God's will for me, to always be.

And now my buddy's gone, still this awful battle rages here. I may be next to go, who knows, they're falling everywhere. Oh how much I'd give to know, my family knelt each night, but I don't have the prayers back home that my dear buddy had. Oh how much we need the prayers of those back home, so dear. It's all that'll ever help us when we are fighting here.

I guess I'm just like all the other homesick souls so far away here, who cannot think of even one, who holds them up in prayer. Oh, why do I go on like this when all are so far away? And yet somehow, it seems as if, that isn't so today. So I've just opened up my heart to you, all through this fight, and maybe somehow, you will know, and pray for me, and pray for us all, tonight.



**The Thanksgiving Offering will conclude this  
Sunday, November 12th.**

There will be a **collection jar** on the fellowship table  
in **Bonham Hall** and one on the table as you come  
into the **Sanctuary**.

*So far, the Deacons have collected \$115.00.*

Thank you for helping to give those in need a  
Thanksgiving dinner!



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sat., December 2nd our church  
will be open for the  
Bridgeton Holiday House Tour.**

If you are able to be a docent  
from 3-7 pm, please sign up on the sheet in the  
kitchen or contact Sandi H.  
Donations of "Bake or Buy"  
cookies for our tour guests would also be  
appreciated.

## Session Members

Debbi  
Boykin-Greenberg

Albert Fooks

Curtis Homan

Debbie Homan

Franz Pampuch

Sandy Zimmerman

Rev. Norlita Kaul,  
Moderator

## Deacons

Linda Ambrose

Amy Brewer

Robert Dragotta

Marie Dunham

Debbie Fooks

Darlene Freitag

Robin Freitag

Jane Hankins

Jody Husted

Heather Newkirk

Marge Pampuch

## Trustees

Yvonne Custis

Bill Freitag

Ken Freitag

Bruce Hankins

Sandra Huster

Sherry Macpherson

Caroline Owens

Beth Schultz

Howard Thorn

## Church Staff

**REV. NORLITA KAUL, PASTOR**

EMAIL: BRIDGETONFPCPASTOR@GMAIL.COM

**CELL # (248) 342-6190**

**GAE FINCH, ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR**

**CHRISTIE SEVER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

EMAIL: FIRSTPRESBRIDGETON@GMAIL.COM

**JOHN AMBROSE, CLERK TO SESSION**

**BOB WOODRUFF, TREASURER**

