

*FIRST*  
*PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



**Building God's House**

**Second Sunday in Lent**  
Sunday, February 25, 2024  
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** "Adoration" Florence B. Price

**WELCOME** Liturgist

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Liturgist

Every time we gather in God's name,  
we learn something new.

**What will be God's gift of revelation to us today?**

We enter this time of worship joyfully,  
assured of God's new mercies.

**Celebrating these blessings to come,  
we bring our love to God.**

**\*HYMN-Lenten Hymnal** "Standing On The Promises"

**CALL TO CONFESSION** Rev. Kaul

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of glory and righteousness,  
we confess that we do not live as citizens  
of your kin-dom.**

**We give allegiance to earthly thrones.**

**We ignore the neediest in our midst.**

**We discount our own worth.**

**We forsake the justice due your kin-dom.**

**Take from us the spirit of isolation, greed,  
lust for power, and false pride.**

**Give us instead the spirit of interdependency,  
generosity, humility, and love.**

**Amen. (*Silent Reflection*)**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved in Christ, you are blessed by God  
to inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the  
foundation of the world. By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
you are refashioned every day to live according to God's reign, in

the freedom of Christ Jesus. Friends, know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen!**

## **\*GLORIA PATRI**

### **THE LENTEN WREATH**

During the forty days of Lent the Christian Church prepares to observe the Lord's passion and resurrection. We examine as we remember the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. In this season of repentance and fasting, we come to terms with our mortality and need for God's mercy. The candles on this cross represent Jesus' life and ministry. Each week we extinguish another candle, remembering how we, the human race, rejected Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Matthew 9:9-13

### **REFLECTION**

#### **PRAYER**

**Jesus, the community you create challenges us. We confess we can be like the Pharisees-on the outside, refusing to participate in the community you have in mind. Reveal to us our prejudices. Forgive us for rejecting the very people who look like us, think like us, make as much money as us, and vote like us, instead of the real, beautiful and diverse Church you came to establish. We no longer want to exclude others. We want to embrace them as you embraced us. Give us the grace to repent so we might seek first your good, true, and peaceful kingdom. Amen.**

#### **SONG RESPONSE**

Lenten Hymnal      "Jesus Remember Me"

#### **ANTHEM**

"Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley"  
arr. Jack Schrader

### **A TIME TO BE YOUNG**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these forty days and speak to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT

Liturgist

Psalm 22:23-31

- 23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**
- 24 For he did not despise or abhor  
the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me,  
but heard when I cried to him.
- 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.**
- 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live forever!
- 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.**
- 28 For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.
- 29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.**
- 30 Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord,
- 31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.**

## GOSPEL READING

Rev. Kaul

Mark 8:31-38

SERMON

“Taking Up Crosses”

HYMN-Lenten Hymnal

“Take Up Your Cross The Savior Said”

**We believe and trust in God The Father Almighty.**

**We believe and trust in Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe and trust in the Three in One.**

## **INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “Sweet By and By” J.P. Webster/ arr J.D. Kimball

\*Melody Chimes: Debbi B.G., Beverly P., Debbie H., Amy B.

### **\*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** #563 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BENEDICTION**

*“May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent, one from the other.” (Mizpah Benediction)*

### **POSTLUDE**

“In Thee, O Lord, Have I Put my Trust”

Johann Christoph Bach

## Points to Ponder for 2nd Sunday in Lent Year B

From the “Splintered Messiah” Poem by Stewart Henderson:  
I don’t want a splintered Messiah, I want a different Messiah.  
Streamlined and inoffensive, one from a catalogue, a package  
tour Messiah, not one who takes me to Golgotha. I don’t want  
the true Christ. Who’s your friend?

From Rev. Chelsea Harmon Commentary on Mark 8:31-38:

Where does our definition of power come from? What do we  
think the Messiah will do for us? Do we have any idea how  
God actually works? Lent is a time to take inventory.  
Why are we following Jesus and how? Who approves/benefits  
(or not) from the ways we are living our lives?

From Lillian Daniel “Jesus and Peter care about each other  
enough to call each other out.” Christian Century, 2.24.09:

This argumentative interchange between Peter and Jesus,  
it reminds me, they had a real relationship and argued, as  
close friends do. Is it “love” when you let your friend prattle  
on without offering judgment? Love entails caring enough  
to struggle, to ask hard questions and to occasionally rebuke.  
Friends are who God uses to teach us what our families can’t.

From Scott Hoezee Commentary on Ps. 22:23-31:

We cry out, we ask God hard questions. Lent begins with our  
finitude and mortality, sobering realities, to ponder/pray about.  
John Calvin believed (about Apostle’s Creed) “he descended  
into hell (Jesus), we’re referring to that hellish moment on the  
cross. Ps. 22 reminds us, sorrow may last through the night,  
but joy comes in the morning. (THANKS BE TO GOD!).



## Serving Today

**LITURGIST-** John A.

**USHERS-** Bruce H., Howard T., Bill F.

**COUNTERS** - Marie D., Joyce I.

**FELLOWSHIP** -

**FLOWERS** - Marion C.



**"If anyone  
would come after me,  
he must deny himself and  
take up his cross  
and follow me."**

**MARK 8:34, NIV**

**Rev. Norlita Kaul, Pastor**

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**John Ambrose, Clerk of Session**

**Bob Woodruff, Treasurer**

