

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE

Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 3, 2024
10:00 A.M.

119 WEST COMMERCE STREET
BRIDGETON, NJ 08302
PHONE (856)455-0809 WWW.FPCBRIDGETON.ORG

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE “If You but Trust in God to Guide You” David Cherwien

WELCOME Liturgist

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

We are here with a vision of what can be as God calls us to worship.

We have journeyed this far, and we pause in gratitude.

Our endurance builds a spirit of understanding and, even in our weariness, joyful praise. **Hear our thanks as our hearts dance and voices sing.**

***HYMN** #288 “I Sing The Mighty Power of God”

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Kaul

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

in this quiet time of prayer and meditation,

we feel our souls stretching,

reaching past our sins to be closer to you.

Help us to look deep into ourselves,

that our Lenten penitence might be about

more than something we want to give up

or even something new we want to take on.

Reveal to us the temptations that make

us complicit in the ills of this world.

Rid us of the desire to get more,

and inspire us to give more.

Rid us of our selfish insecurity,

and guide us in the way of selflessness.

In our brokenness may we find the kind

of healing that brings wholeness to others.

Amen. (*Silent Reflection*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus walked on the earth

and knows the temptations that lead us away from God. His gift of healing extends even to our transgressions. His life shows us the transforming power of God's mercy in a world of hurt and pain. His ceaseless love and grace assure us of our forgiveness. **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: Luke 18:35-43

REFLECTION

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, we believe you are on the move, bringing health and wholeness to a hurting world. We know that you call us to reach out to others as well, but sometimes we refuse. We refuse to see those who need you. We refuse to slow down in the midst of our busy lives. We refuse to minister to those who hurt. Forgive us, Lord. We thank you that you won't be stopped. You will heal and save no matter what. Help us remember how you sought us out. Thank you for the people you used to bring us to you. Please help us to be more faithful to the mission you gave us. Give us compassion and boldness. 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 "Is There Room For A Sinner?"
Beverly P. - Flute

Pepper Choplin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LITURGIST

You have revealed to us in your Word,
the sacrifices of the Lenten journey as we go.
Here in the middle, as we sojourn, Holy Spirit,
we look back at how far we have come
and forward towards what is to come.
Beloved God, you call us to stop and to be,
finding joy where we are.

You show us the beauty of the sky above,
the firmness of the earth below.

We breathe in the air of a new day,
remember the rain along the way,

and cling to the dreams of our nights and your Holy Word.

We stop and give thanks because we are alive and you are our
God! **Amen.**

A TIME TO BE YOUNG

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Liturgist

GOSPEL READING John 2:13-22

Rev. Kaul

SERMON "Why Does It Matter?"

HYMN-Lenten Hymnal "Lead Me, Guide Me" (sing twice)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Liturgist

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 "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

F. W. Zachau

***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

Let us pray now with confidence as children of God the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray saying:

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 #372 "Lord I Want To Be A Christian"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

After forty days and forty nights, Jesus came down from the mountain to invite disciples to follow him. We, too, hear the question, "Will you come and follow me?" Whether we have given up something dear to us or taken up something we yearn to do in this season, it is always the season for discipleship.

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

POSTLUDE "He Leadeth Me" Wm. Bradbury/arr. D. Paxton



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Thanks for supporting
our PCUSA mission
offering for Lent

The Law of God

God Spoke all these words, saying,
I am the Lord your God.
You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself and idol
whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above
or that is on the earth beneath,
or that is in the water under the earth.
You shall not bow down to them or worship them.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your
God.
Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house;
you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or anything that belongs
to your neighbor.

The Decalogue (Ten Words/Commandments)



Serving Today

LITURGIST– Debbi B.G.

USHERS- Curtis H., Debbie H., Frank P.

COUNTERS - Debbie F., Sherry M.

FELLOWSHIP - Connie C.

FLOWERS - *In Memory of Loved Ones*

‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!’¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’¹⁹ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ (John 2:16b-19) “What could we kick to the curb?”



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

www.fpcbridgeton.org

John Ambrose, Clerk of Session

Bob Woodruff, Treasurer

