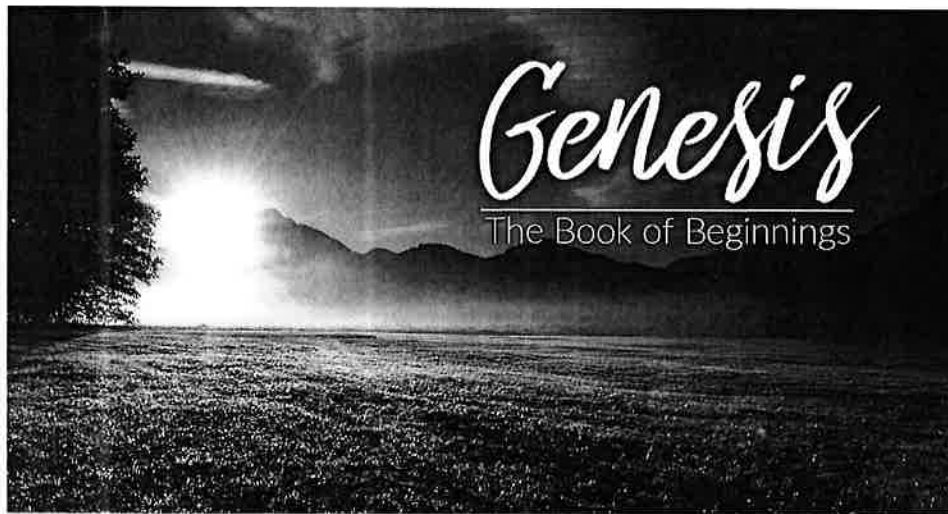


FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



8th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 23, 2023
10:00 A.M.

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Liturgist

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

We come. We wait.

We long. We hope.

We suffer. We pray.

We rejoice. We sing.

We know we are children of God.

We wait for Christ to set all things right.

*HYMN #527 *“Near To The Heart of God”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Norlita Kaul

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Norlita Kaul

Ever-present God, there is no place where you are not with us. You see us at our worst and at our best.

There is much we would hide from you—the ways we harm your creation, the ways we mistreat others, the ways we turn away when we should turn toward.

Even as you know us, forgive us. Guide our thoughts, our words, our actions, that you may delight in us as we delight in you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Norlita Kaul

Beloved, hear the good news: God knows us and forgives us and leads us in the way of everlasting life.

Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

HEARING THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN insert *"Nearer My God To Thee"*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Time after Pentecost, Reign of Christ Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.54-55*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Offertory "

*Doxology

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #339 *"Be Thou My Vision"*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent, one from another. Amen.

(Mizpah Benediction)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ps. 139:1-12,23-24

Liturgist

O. T. pg 577

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

² **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ **Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.**

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ **If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ **even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"^[a]

¹² **even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.

²⁴ **See if there is any wicked^[a] way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.^[b]**

FOCUS READING

Gen. 28:10-19

Rev. Kaul and Liturgist

O.T. pg. 25

SERMON

"Works in Progress"

Rev. Norlita Kaul

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN insert *“Nearer My God To Thee”*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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POSTLUDE

- - Those who are able, please stand.
-

LITURGIST- Yvonne Custis

USHERS- Team 1 Debbie Homan, captain; Curtis Homan
& William Conway

COUNTERS - Team D - Marie Dumham and Joyce Ireland

FLOWERS- Yvonne Custis

IN OUR PRAYERS

We are praying and ask you to pray also. Please pray for those who are sick, isolated, living in fear and with high anxiety; those with medical issues, which put them at high risk; those making hard decisions; those who are serving on the front lines in the medical profession and first-responders; those who do not know Jesus and feel they are facing this on their own.

In our ongoing prayers:

- Al Finlaw
(friend of Richard King)
- Patrick Deopp
(friend of Darlene Freitag &
brother-in-law of Abby Freitag)
- Richard King
- Ronald Coombs
(friend of Ray Rodriguez
& Richard King)
- Jim Hurley
- Mel Bergmann
- William Fairer
(Bill Fairer's father)



- Beverly Pugh Corry
- Shannon Willis
- Bobby Greenberg
(Debbi BG husband)
- Unspoken Request
- Louis (Cancer)
- Louise Robertson
- Charles Pickard
(Bri Pampuch's Grandfather)
- Ben (Darlene Freitag's Dad)

In Care/Home bound:

- Bebe DeLussa

Those Who Mourn:

- The Hurley Family
- The Bickings Family

PRAYER REQUESTS

Those wishing to add or remove people or prayer concerns to or from the prayer list, please contact the church office (856) 455-0809. Please make sure you have permission to have their name published before doing so. Thank You!

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

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GAE FINCH, ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

EMAIL: FIRSTPRESBRIDGETON@GMAIL.COM

JOHN AMBROSE, CLERK TO SESSION

BOB WOODRUFF, TREASURER

