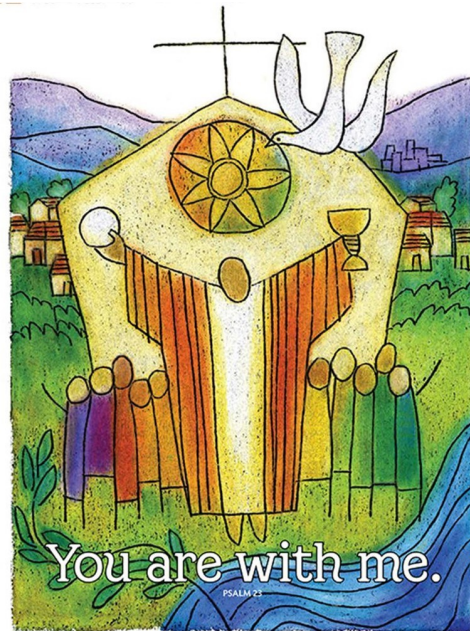


*FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



**17th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Sunday, September 24, 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** 'Lord of All Hopefulness'

arr. C. Christiansen

**WELCOME**

Liturgist

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist

We will sing to God and bless  
God's name forever and ever.

**Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!**

We will declare God's mighty acts and celebrate God's abundant goodness.

**Let us worship, singing God's righteousness.**

\***HYMN #464** 'Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee'

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Rev. Dan Pure

We try to live our lives in a manner worthy of Christ. We try to stand firm in God's spirit, but our human self-interest gets the better of us. In humility and faith, let us confess.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Rev. Dan Pure

**God of generosity, we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves more deserving than others. We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show. Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace, and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy. (*Silent Reflection*)**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Rev. Dan Pure

The grace of God is boundless, poured out freely for all of us. We will receive this gift of forgiveness, and trust God to transform our lives!

\***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**      A Time For All Things

arr. D. Wagner

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Revelation 3:7-13

Rev. Dan Pure

**SERMON**      ‘Backsliders Make Backsliding Churches!’

Rev. Dan Pure

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN #447**      ‘Lead On, O King Eternal’

## **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 Spirit, 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 Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** ‘He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought’

arr. R.J. Powell

### **\*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

### 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 #417** Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation'

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** 'This Is the Day the Lord Has Made' arr. G.M. Göttsche



**LITURGIST-** Caroline Owens

### **USHERS- Team 4**

Bruce Hankins, Frank Pillsbury & Bill Freitag

**COUNTERS - Team D -** Marie Dunham & Joyce Ireland

**FLOWERS-** Anne Sheppard

**FELLOWSHIP -** Heather Newkirk & Debbie Homan

## Revelations 3:7-13

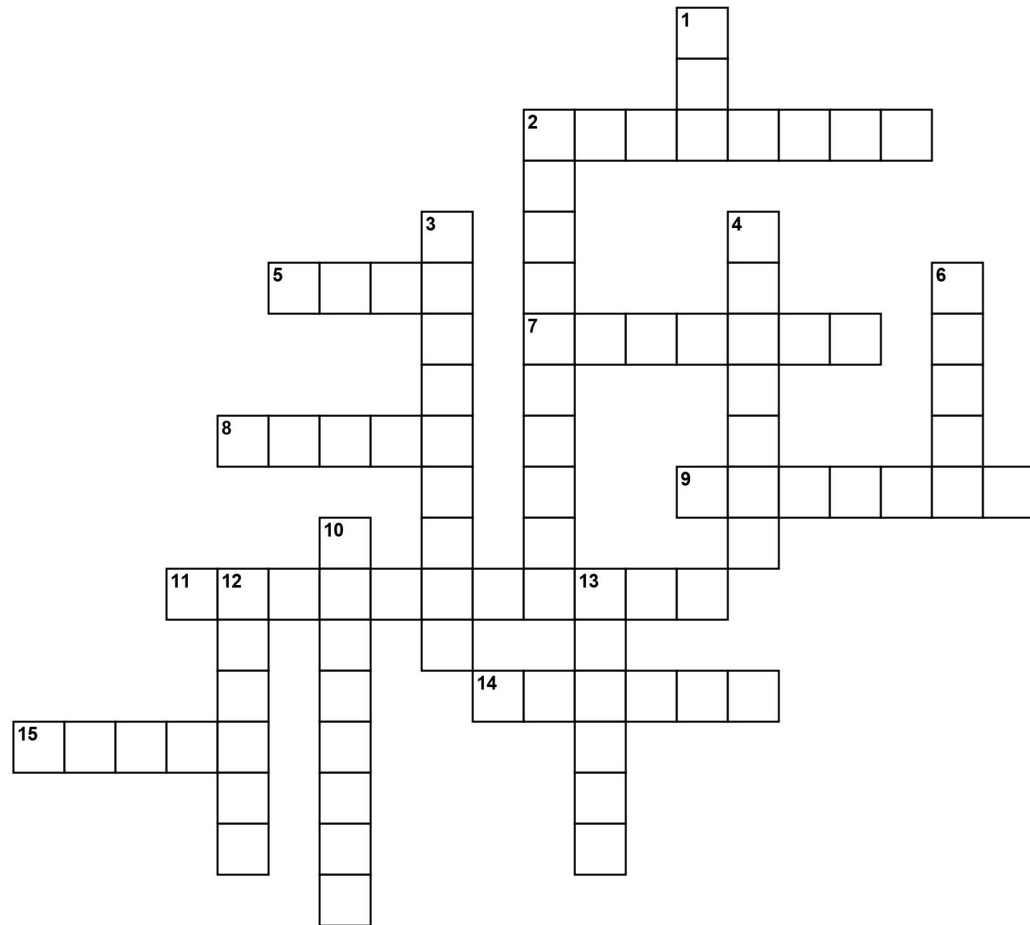
### The Message to Philadelphia

<sup>7</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of the Holy One, the True One,  
who has the key of David,  
who opens and no one will shut,  
who shuts and no one opens:

<sup>8</sup> “I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door that no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup> I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not but are lying—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Because you have kept my word of endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. <sup>11</sup> I am coming soon; hold fast to what you have, so that no one takes away your crown. <sup>12</sup> If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. <sup>13</sup> Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

# The Seven Churches of Revelation



## Across

- [2] Meaning of the word, "church"
- [5] Writer of the Revelation
- [7] Invented false universal church theory
- [8] Jesus was dead and is \_\_\_\_
- [9] What "weeks" means in Daniel
- [11] Those whose deeds Ephesus hated
- [14] Modern day country of the seven churches
- [15] Paul was accused of opposing this goddess

## Down

- [1] Every one of these shall see Him
- [2] The prince that shall come
- [3] Meaning of the word, "catholic"
- [4] What Ephesus had not done
- [6] The kind of love Ephesus lost
- [10] A disciple of John who was martyred
- [12] Literal descendants of Jacob
- [13] Thy people

Answers: (Across) 2.Assembly, 5.John, 7.Cyprian, 8.Alive, 9.Seventy, 11.Nicolaitins, 14.Turkey, 15.Diana. (Down) 1.Eye, 2.Antichrist, 3.Universal, 4.Fainted, 6.First, 10.Polycarp, 12.Israel, 13.Israel

## 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

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